

# THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT BRISTOL BAY

*Supporting a healthy economy, culture and fishery for the next generation of Alaskans.*

*2011 Update*



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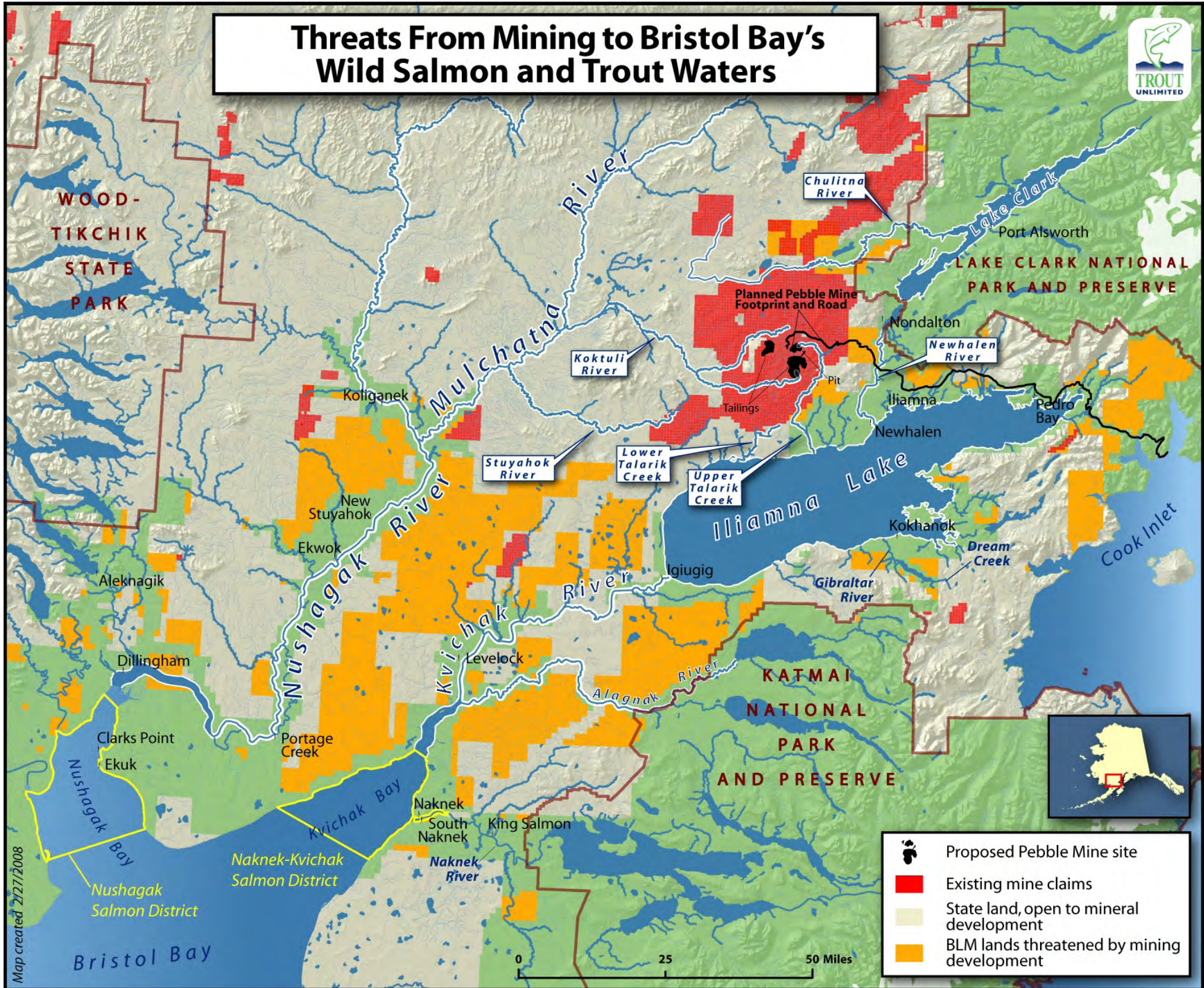
### **GROWING SUPPORT FOR PROTECTING BRISTOL BAY**

**section I**

# **THE PROPOSED PEBBLE MINE AND BRISTOL BAY**



# BRISTOL BAY AREA MAP & MINING CLAIMS





# BRISTOL BAY AT RISK

*Proposed Pebble Mine threatens world-class salmon and rainbow trout fishery*



Photo by: Jim Klug



Photos by: Barry and Cathy Beck



*The Bristol Bay region in southwest Alaska is pristine wild country, stretching from the rugged snow-capped peaks of the Alaska Range, across tundra and wetlands laced with rivers that flow into the bay, providing the best wild salmon habitat on earth. The hour-and-a-half flight from Anchorage to*

Bristol Bay takes visitors on a breathtaking journey across two national parks (Katmai and Lake Clark), Alaska's largest state park (Wood-Tikchik), three active volcanoes (Augustine, Iliamna and Redoubt), Lake Iliamna (Alaska's largest lake), and countless winding rivers and tundra lakes. Bristol Bay and its watershed are truly inspiring for their beauty and bounty of rainbow trout, salmon and wildlife.

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## BRISTOL BAY

As wild salmon disappear around the globe, Bristol Bay continues to produce the world's largest sockeye salmon fisheries, one of the largest king salmon runs and abundant trophy rainbow trout. The reason for this is clear - Bristol Bay's freshwater habitat is largely untouched by development. However, the bay is under threat from foreign mining corporations that want to turn the watershed into an industrial mining district. North America's largest open-pit mine is proposed for an area that straddles two of the bay's most important salmon streams. If plans for the Pebble Mine are allowed to proceed, they risk destroying a \$445 million commercial and sport salmon fishery that celebrates its 125th year in 2009.



Photo by: Nick Hall

*...they risk destroying a \$445 million commercial and sport fishery*

The Pebble Mine would directly threaten some of the most premier sport fishing destinations on the globe including: the Nushagak, Mulchatna, Koktuli and Kvichak Rivers, and Upper Talarik Creek. These vibrant, wild Alaska rivers are as productive now as they were thousands of years ago and serve as



Photo by: Ben Knight

magnets for anglers from all over the world who want high-end, "once in a lifetime" fishing experiences. The Kvichak River is home to the world's largest sockeye salmon run and is also within Alaska's designated trophy wild rainbow trout area. The Nushagak and Mulchatna Rivers support the largest Chinook (king) salmon runs in Alaska, and perhaps the world.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SALMON

Healthy salmon runs underpin the Bristol Bay region's economic, social, cultural and ecological well-being. Local communities, jobs, and the health of the entire region, from grizzlies on down the food chain,

*The proposed development of the Pebble Mine threatens hundreds of sport fishing lodges as well as the world's largest wild commercial sockeye salmon fishery and the subsistence culture of the Bristol Bay region.*



Photo by: Kate Taylor







Photo by: Jim Klug

depend on these fish. The salmon sustain both thriving commercial and sport fishing industries as well as traditional subsistence ways of life. If the Pebble Mine is developed, hundreds of sport fishing lodges as well as the world's largest wild commercial sockeye salmon fishery and the subsistence culture of thousands of Alaska Natives and non-Natives who live in the Bristol Bay region will be threatened.

## THE PEBBLE MINE

The Pebble deposit is a massive storehouse of gold, copper and molybdenum, located in the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak Rivers, two of the eight major rivers that feed Bristol Bay. If built, Pebble would be one of the largest mines of its type in the world. The Pebble Limited Partnership is composed of the world's second largest multinational mining corporation, London-based Anglo American, along with Northern Dynasty, a smaller mining company headquartered in Canada. The

Pebble Limited Partnership has not released its final mine plans, but company executives and recent ore body estimates indicate that the Pebble Mine complex will cover between 15 and 54 square miles and include a 740 foot high dam that is over three miles long. Located in a seismically active area, the massive earthen dam would be designed to contain the toxic waste created in the mining process. Most of the material removed from the Pebble mining area will not have value. Over its lifetime, Pebble is estimated to produce between 2.5 and 10 billion tons of sulfide-laced waste rock that would have to be treated in perpetuity. Any release of this waste into the surface or groundwater has the potential to destroy Bristol Bay's salmon and rainbow trout populations forever.

## OUR PUBLIC LANDS IN THE BAY

More than 1 million acres of prime wildlife and salmon habitat adjacent to the proposed Pebble Mine site could be opened to new mining claims with the stroke of a pen.

Closed to mining since 1971, these wild Alaska lands are integral to Bristol Bay's salmon-supporting habitat that is anchored by miles of untamed rivers and wild country. A recommendation from the Bureau of Land Management to lift this mineral closure and create a modern-day gold rush was issued in the last days of the Bush Administration. The cumulative impacts from increased development in the area overtime could devastate the fishery.

## PROTECT BRISTOL BAY



Photo by: Lauren Oakes

**With wild salmon runs disappearing from the planet,** Bristol Bay is a place of international importance because of its prolific wild salmon runs and the economies they support. It faces imminent threat from the proposed Pebble Mine as well as hard rock mining on adjacent state and federal land. The Bristol Bay watershed must be protected from Pebble and other large-scale mining projects.



# AT A GLANCE



Photo by: Barry and Cathy Beck

A pristine region woven with rivers and punctuated by mountain peaks, the Bristol Bay headwaters, encompassing over 12 million acres, are the lifeblood of America's largest remaining wild salmon populations.

The sport, commercial and subsistence fishing in this area contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to the local economy and provides thousands of jobs.

This bountiful, yet delicate system is threatened by the proposed development of one of the largest open pit gold mines in the world - the Pebble Mine.

Trout Unlimited, sport, commercial, and subsistence fisherman, and countless other community partners in the Bristol Bay region need your help to protect this irreplaceable resource.



## TROUT UNLIMITED ALASKA

*Trout Unlimited's Alaska Program* works to preserve, protect and restore wild salmon and trout populations throughout Alaska. Through sound scientific data, strong grassroots outreach and advocacy, and hands-on involvement in conservation projects we protect some of the most pristine and prized rivers on the planet, restore those that need some help, and engage the next generation of coldwater stewards in Alaska's natural heritage.

Photo by: Ben Knight

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**section 2**

# **BRISTOL BAY AND EPA'S 404C AUTHORITY**



## **Advancing the Clean Water Act 404(c) Process in the Headwaters of Bristol Bay's Kvichak and Nushagak River Drainages.**

A potential mega-scale hardrock mine threatens the headwaters of Bristol Bay, Alaska's Kvichak and Nushagak river drainages. Such a mine poses unacceptable risks to the resources and people of Bristol Bay. Consequently, last year, a broad-based coalition of Alaska Natives, commercial fishermen, sportsmen and others requested the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) use its authority under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to protect the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak River drainages of the Bristol Bay watershed.

On February 7, 2011, EPA announced plans to conduct a scientific assessment of the Bristol Bay Watershed. In describing the purpose of this assessment, Regional Administrator Dennis McLerran said:

The Bristol Bay watershed is essential to the health, environment and economy of Alaska. Gathering data and getting public input now, before development occurs, just makes sense. Doing this we can be assured that our future decisions are grounded in the best science and information and in touch with the needs of these communities. We look forward to working with Alaskans to protect and preserve this valuable resource.<sup>1</sup>

We are encouraged by the announcement of this scientific assessment, and are hopeful that this represents the first step toward initiating action under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act. The assessment, as noted by EPA, will be informed by scientific peer review, tribal consultation, federal and state agency participation as well as public and industry input. As a part of this assessment, we urge the EPA to identify wetlands and waters that should be subject to a prohibition on or restriction of dredge and fill activity. By starting evaluations of this watershed now, EPA fulfills congressional intent that such large threats be identified and addressed proactively for the benefit of all, thereby saving government, industry, and local communities millions of dollars and precious working resources. Such evaluations will also help fulfill EPA's trust responsibility to the tribes.

Although EPA's action to proceed with a scientific assessment is a positive step in the right direction for protection of these important resources, we also strongly urge the EPA to implement Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act without delay.

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<sup>1</sup> EPA News Release, available at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/8c1e5dd5d170ad99852578300067d3b3?OpenDocument>

### Proactive Use of Clean Water Act Section 404(c)

The objective of the Clean Water Act is to “... maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.” Section 404(c) was created with the authority to allow the Administrator to “prohibit” (as well as withdraw, deny or restrict) the discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States if such discharge “will have an unacceptable adverse effect on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds and fishery areas (including spawning and breeding areas), wildlife, or recreational areas.”<sup>2</sup> EPA may “prohibit [such discharges]....before a permit application has been submitted to the Corps.”<sup>3</sup>

As EPA has explained, proactive use of its 404(c) authority is a prudent and reasonable approach to protecting valuable resources:

[Advanced prohibition] facilitate[s] planning by developers and industry ... eliminat[ing] frustrating situations in which someone spends time and money developing a project for an inappropriate site and learns at an advanced stage he must start over. ... In addition, advance prohibition will facilitate comprehensive rather than piecemeal protection of wetlands. ... [T]here are instances where a site may be so sensitive and valuable that it is possible to say that any filling of more than X acres will have unacceptable adverse affects. EPA recognizes that *where possible it is much more preferable to exercise this [§404(c)] authority before the Corps or state has issued a permit...*” (emphasis added).<sup>4</sup>

### The Proposed Pebble Mine and Its Associated Facilities Pose Unacceptable Risks to the Resources and People of Bristol Bay.

The proponents of Pebble Mine estimate that it would produce up to 10.78 billion tons of waste<sup>5</sup> containing elements such as copper and other heavy metals. This waste threatens municipal water supplies, several fishery areas (including spawning and breeding grounds for world renowned populations of salmon), wildlife health and recreation areas.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>2</sup> An “unacceptable adverse effect” means an impact which is likely to result in significant degradation of a listed resource (40 C.F.R. Part 230).

<sup>3</sup> 40CFR 231.1(a). For instance, EPA used §404(c) in (1) Big River, (2) Sites owned by [Henry Rem Estate, Marion Becker and Senior Corporation](#), and (3) Bayou Aux Carps when no application was pending.

<sup>4</sup> 44 Fed. Reg. 58076, 58077 (Oct. 9, 1979)(emphasis added). *See also* EPA’s Final Decision in Spruce No. 1 Mine, noting that “EPA strongly prefers to initiate the § 404(c) process prior to issuance of a permit....” Further, proactive use of 404(c) authority, exercised through a rigorous process, presents no more threat of illegal taking of private property rights than would the denial of a 404 permit for a proposed mine.

<sup>5</sup> Northern Dynasty Minerals, Ltd. News Release, Pebble Budget Increased To US \$70 Million For 2009 (Sept. 23 2009) at 2; *see also* Pebble Limited Partnership News Release (Feb. 1, 2010) available at <http://www.pebblepartnership.com/sites/default/files/pub/PEB-0028%20press%20release%20feb%202010%20Resource%20update.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Robert E. Moran, Ph.D., Michael-Moran Assoc., LLC, Pebble Mine: Hydrogeology and Geochemistry Issues (Sept. 2007), available at [http://www.fish4thefuture.com/pdfs/Moran\\_Hydrogeology\\_Geochemistry\\_8\\_9\\_07.pdf](http://www.fish4thefuture.com/pdfs/Moran_Hydrogeology_Geochemistry_8_9_07.pdf) at 6, 11, 21, 25.



If this project moves forward, these toxins would have to be contained and potentially treated in perpetuity. Because the Pebble mining claim straddles the Kvichak and Nushagak river drainages, which in turn are the foundation for Bristol Bay salmon fisheries, any release of mining waste into the surface or groundwater has the potential to severely harm Bristol Bay's salmon. This creates a very real threat for Alaska Natives, commercial fishermen, sport fishing business owners and many others who depend on a healthy Bristol Bay for their economic support, subsistence hunting and fishing, and cultural well being.

Risks from the proposed Pebble Mine and associated facilities trigger unacceptable adverse effects to several 404(c) resources of concern, including, but not limited to:

**Fishery Areas (including spawning and breeding grounds):** Bristol Bay is widely recognized as one of the last remaining strongholds for healthy wild salmon populations in North America and the world. The region provides pristine spawning grounds for trophy rainbow trout and all five species of Pacific salmon, including the largest sockeye salmon runs on Earth, and a variety of other fish and wildlife species that depend on the nutrients from salmon, clean water, and undisturbed habitat. Alaska Native communities rely on these resources today, as they have for centuries, to support traditional subsistence ways of life, and Bristol Bay's salmon runs are the economic engine for the entire region. 75 percent of local jobs are tethered to the fishery and the fishing based industries in the region generate nearly \$450 million annually<sup>7</sup>. Bristol Bay salmon account for 40% of the world's sockeye salmon supply; providing a healthy and nutritious form of protein for millions of people<sup>8</sup>. These fisheries and the complex ecosystems relying on salmon have proven to be entirely self-sustaining because of the intrinsic qualities of the habitat, and the fact that the habitat has not been degraded.

**Wildlife Areas:** The uplands of Bristol Bay are important habitat for caribou and moose, both of which are important to subsistence and sport hunters. Caribou calving grounds and moose winter habitat are on lands at or proximate to the mining claims or its associated facilities.

**Recreation Areas:** Sport anglers looking for "once in a lifetime" experiences on rivers such as the Nushagak, Mulchatna, Koktuli and Kvichak support more than 800 full- and part-time jobs, with sport fishing and other recreation generating more than \$90 million annually for the region.<sup>9</sup>

**Municipal Water Supplies:** Drinking water in the region comes from local rivers and waterways. Large-scale mining activities such as the potential Pebble Mine will likely impact drinking water through leaching heavy metals and other contaminants from waste rock, tailings, and waste containment facilities.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> John Duffield et al., *Economics of Wild Salmon Watersheds; Bristol Bay, Alaska*. 2007. Updated report 2010, based on 2009 numbers.

<sup>8</sup> Page II-3 in [http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/pita/Knapp\\_BB\\_Price\\_Projections\\_October\\_2004.pdf](http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/pita/Knapp_BB_Price_Projections_October_2004.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Duffield et al., at 16.

<sup>10</sup> See US EPA "Fact Sheet: Final Third Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 3)" issued

PLP mining claims cover roughly 180 square miles<sup>11</sup> and plans for a mining and processing complex covering roughly 54 square miles<sup>12</sup>. Thus, in addition to the numerous threats of direct and long-term impacts from depositing up to 10.78 billion tons of mine waste in the headwaters of Bristol Bay, the indirect impacts of the proposed Pebble mine could be equally substantial. These anticipated adverse impacts support early action by the EPA to protect these resources, even in advance of a permit application, and would fulfill Congressional Intent with regard to proactive use of authority under the CWA Section 404(c).

### **Proactive Action is Supported by EPA's Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes**

In its proposed policy for relations with Indian Tribes, EPA states that it should “consult on a government-to-government basis with tribal governments when EPA actions and decisions may affect tribal interests.”<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, that policy provides that EPA should work to ensure “the close involvement of tribal governments and gives special consideration to their interests whenever EPA’s actions may affect Indian country or other tribal interests.”<sup>14</sup>

Six federally recognized tribes in the Kvichak and Nushagak River drainages of Southwest Alaska (Nondalton Tribal Council, Koliganik Village Council, New Stuyahok Traditional Council, Ekwok Village Council, Curyung Tribal Council and Levelock Village Council) have requested EPA to proactively use its 404(c) authority to protect Bristol Bay. In their request, these federally recognized tribes identified specific unacceptable and adverse impacts from a development such as the potential Pebble Mine that would directly affect tribal interests. The Bristol Bay Native Association (a non-profit corporation and tribal consortium serving the 31 federally recognized tribes in the Bristol Bay region) and Bristol Bay Native Corporation (a multi-billion dollar developer and the largest land-owner in the Bristol Bay region representing almost 8,700 Native shareholders) filed similar requests with EPA. Consequently, early EPA action would fulfill EPA’s Trust Obligation as well as Congressional Intent with regard to CWA Section 404 (c).

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September 2009 available at [http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw000/cc1/pdfs/cc13\\_docs/fs\\_cc3\\_final.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw000/cc1/pdfs/cc13_docs/fs_cc3_final.pdf) (including, among other metals, molybdenum, which is proposed to be mined from the Pebble claims).

<sup>11</sup> See Northern Dynasty Mines Inc., Pebble Project Application for Water Right, North Fork Koktuli River (July 7, 2006), available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/pebble/2006/swnfkorrig.pdf> at Exhibit A, pp. 1-33; see also Knight Piesbold Consulting, Northern Dynasty Mines, Inc., Tailings Impoundment A Initial Application Report (Sept. 5, 2006) Figures, available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/pebble/2006/damafig.pdf> at Figure 3.1.

<sup>12</sup> Computer-generated estimate by SkyTruth, September, 2010 based on NMD current resources estimates (see footnote 5).

<sup>13</sup> EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes, dated June 9, 2010

<sup>14</sup> Id.



### **EPA Should Implement CWA §404 (c) Process Immediately**

Considering the ecological and cultural values at risk in this watershed, EPA is justified in taking early action to protect the Bristol Bay watershed. In addition to promoting efficient and timely use of resources, EPA's immediate action to implement Section 404(c) would also help to address local societal stressors associated with the fear and uncertainty of the local inhabitants related to potential development of the proposed Pebble Mine. An example of this local stress was demonstrated when previous attempts by PLP to engage the community with a "technical working group" collapsed when PLP was unwilling to share data between the company and state and federal regulators. PLP refused to share raw data which caused great frustration for EPA and others and resulted in the cancellation of the group. The community felt it was left out of any significant role related to future use of the lands. EPA's commitment to perform a scientific assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed is positive step for all involved, however, EPA must ultimately and without delay implement the 404(c) process. Now is the time to protect this area as it is intact and functioning, providing irreplaceable resources that fuel the local economy.

Previous experience with EPA's use of the 404(c) authority demonstrates the business community's desire for certainty. For example, in the Spruce determination,<sup>15</sup> a significant complaint was that EPA waited too long to use its authority and that EPA's attempt to withdraw the lands created uncertainty for business and should have been done earlier. A potential Pebble Mine and associated facilities pose unacceptable and adverse effects to Bristol Bay's resources and people. EPA, by acting now to implement 404(c) authority, can also save the United States Government from expending valuable financial and personnel resources. Further, EPA's immediate action would benefit all stakeholders as it sends a clear message about the types of projects that are not appropriate for this area.

**In sum, EPA has the legal authority and scientific justification to immediately initiate the CWA §404(c) process to protect the resources of the Bristol Bay watershed affected by the proposed Pebble Mine project.**

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<sup>15</sup> See EPA, Spruce No. 1 Mine 404(c) Questions & Answers for Web Posting, Oct. 16, 2009, [http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/pdf/spruce\\_1\\_Oct\\_16\\_2009\\_q\\_and\\_a.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/pdf/spruce_1_Oct_16_2009_q_and_a.pdf)

# PROTECT BRISTOL BAY

## *The Case for Stopping Pebble Mine and Permanently Protecting Bristol Bay, Alaska*



: Robert Glenn Ketchum

## PEBBLE MINE: A THREAT TO JOBS, WATER AND A WAY OF LIFE

The Pebble deposit is a vast low-grade deposit of gold and copper located in the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak Rivers in Bristol Bay, Alaska. If built, Pebble would be one of the largest mines in the world. It would also cause incredible harm to the world's largest wild sockeye salmon fishery. The Pebble Limited Partnership (PLP) has not released its final mine plans but company executives have said

that the Pebble mine complex, which would cover some 54.5 sq miles based on most recent PLP estimates, would produce between 2.5 and 10.78 billion tons of waste including acid and heavy metals that will have to be treated in perpetuity. Any release of this waste into the surface or groundwater has the potential to damage Bristol Bay's salmon and rainbow trout populations and the people who depend on them.



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# STOPPING PEBBLE MINE IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS



Currently the Bristol Bay salmon industry provides over 10,000 jobs. In 2008 (most recent data) the total wholesale value for commercially caught Bristol Bay salmon was over \$300 million. Estimates also show that over \$75 million was spent in Alaska on Bristol Bay sport fishing

trips. For 10,000 years this fishery has sustained the indigenous people of the area – most of whom still rely on their subsistence fishery as a significant part of their non-cash income. For 130 years this has been sustainably managed as a commercial fishery. Pebble puts all of this at risk.

## LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSED TO PEBBLE

*Local opposition to the proposed Pebble mine is strong, well documented and growing.*

The largest Native corporation in the area, Bristol Bay Native Corp. (BBNC) passed a formal resolution against the mine project in December 2009. BBNC represents 7,800 shareholders with ancestral ties to Bristol Bay. One month later, in January 2010, the largest community in Bristol Bay, the city of

Dillingham, passed a similar anti-Pebble resolution. The sentiment expressed in the BBNC and Dillingham resolutions is supported by recent data from polling of Bristol Bay residents as well as dozens of resolutions from entities and communities around the region. Polls found that 79 percent of respondents thought the mine would damage Bristol Bay's wild salmon fishery<sup>1</sup>. Some 73 percent said they opposed the Pebble project.

*"I grew up here in New Stuyahok and have been living a subsistence lifestyle like many others. I am a mother and my son wants to hunt and fish when he grows up. So we have to stop the Pebble Mine and think of our future, for the children are our future. How can we still have a subsistence lifestyle after the mine?"*

Stacey Neketa,  
Bristol Bay resident

<sup>1</sup> Poll results are published at: <http://community.adn.com/adn/node/143652>





## THE STATE OF ALASKA HAS FAILED TO PROTECT BRISTOL BAY

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages nearly 12 million acres of state land in the Bristol Bay watershed including the land where Pebble is proposed. In 2005, DNR released its current Bristol Bay Area Plan which reversed decades of balanced resource management and suddenly favored mining development by opening

its entire 12 million acres for mining and reducing salmon habitat protections by 94 percent. Simply put, DNR is gambling with the future of Bristol Bay and the thousands of people who depend on wild salmon for their jobs and survival.

Several pieces of protective legislation have been introduced in

the Alaska Legislature but none have been scheduled for a vote in either the State House or Senate despite widespread support. Legislative foot dragging continues despite a recent ruling from the Alaska Board of Fisheries requesting the Alaska Legislature take action to bolster safeguards for fish, wildlife and water in Bristol Bay.

## THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS BRISTOL BAY CONSERVATION

In announcing a recent decision to cancel lease sales for 2011 oil drilling in the North Aleutian Basin (offshore of Bristol Bay), U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said that the Bristol Bay region is one place that is “simply too special to drill” and a “national treasure.” Even while moving forward with development in other areas, the Obama Administration specifically sought to afford protections to the Bristol Bay area, with its world-class sockeye salmon runs and abundant wildlife.







## LOCAL TRIBES, COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN AND SPORTSMEN CALL ON EPA FOR HELP

Due to the lack of protection for subsistence, commercial, and sport fishing in Bristol Bay and the looming threat of mining, the following tribes and organizations have asked the Environmental Protection Agency to initiate a Clean Water Act 404(c) action and permanently protect its waters and wetlands: Nondalton Tribal Council, Koliganek Village Council, Ekwok Village Council, Curyung Tribal Council, Levelock Village Council, New Stuyahok Traditional Council, AK Independent Fisherman's Marketing Association, Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association, and Trout Unlimited.

The EPA has the authority and an unprecedented opportunity to safeguard this unique and valuable habitat and the health of local people by exercising its Clean Water Act Section 404(c) authority to protect the Bristol Bay watershed. The unique conditions of the Bristol Bay headwaters justify an immediate action by EPA to prohibit dredge and fill activity related to large-scale mining.



*Trout Unlimited's Alaska Program* works to preserve, protect and restore wild salmon and trout populations throughout Alaska. Through sound scientific data, strong grassroots outreach and advocacy, and hands-on involvement in conservation projects we protect some of the most pristine and prized rivers on the planet, restore those that need some help, and engage the next generation of coldwater stewards in Alaska's natural heritage.

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**section 3**

# **RECENT MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



# HIGHLIGHTS OF MEDIA COVERAGE

## FEBRUARY 2011



The Save Bristol Bay campaign generated considerable, widely circulated media coverage in February. More than 300 media outlets ran or produced stories about the EPA's decision to conduct a scientific assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed. And the nation's newspaper of record – The New York Times – wrote a strong, influential editorial in favor of the assessment and protecting Bristol Bay. Here are a few highlights, for a full list of coverage, see [www.SaveBristolBay.org](http://www.SaveBristolBay.org)

## The New York Times

### The Risk to Bristol Bay

Editorial • February 13, 2011

Last year, the Obama administration permanently banned oil drilling in Alaska's Bristol Bay, America's richest salmon fishery and the heart of a \$2.2 billion regional fishing industry. One huge threat to this extraordinary ecosystem remains: a proposed gold and copper operation known as the Pebble Mine. If built, it would affect a huge area of clear-running headwater streams and wetlands that feed the bay.

Responding to urgent requests from nine native tribes that depend on the headwaters for subsistence, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has now announced that it will assess the risks to the bay from mining and commercial projects in general.

This is very good news. The agency obviously cannot prejudge the study's outcome, but its announcement pointedly called attention to Bristol Bay's "extraordinary importance" as a salmon fishery and source of food and income for local residents. It also called attention to its obligation under the federal Clean Water Act to block any project that would have an "unacceptable adverse effect" on water quality and wildlife.

Anglo American, the London-based multinational powerhouse behind the project, says it can extract the minerals safely. But historically the mining industry has done a sloppy job of protecting the environment. Mining residues, like sulfide-laced rock, are toxic. No matter how hard the company tries to sequester them — it proposes to build a 740-foot-high dam to contain the waste — an earthquake or other disturbance can jar them loose.

The people of Alaska came close to blocking the project themselves in a 2008 referendum. Three former governors, including two Republicans, and Senator Ted Stevens spoke out against the mine. Industry, however, spent \$12 million on advertising about the mine's economic benefits; that, plus a last-minute pro-mining push by Gov. Sarah Palin and her administration, turned the tide in industry's favor.

The E.P.A. is right to do this study. We are certain it will find that the mine presents unacceptable risks and should not be allowed to proceed.

*A version of this editorial appeared in print on February 14, 2011, on page A26 of the New York edition.*

# The Washington Post

## EPA to study impacts on Bristol Bay watershed

By BECKY BOHRER

The Associated Press • February 7, 2011

JUNEAU, Alaska -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to study how a world-class copper and gold prospect could affect the Bristol Bay watershed and that region's premier commercial sockeye salmon fishery.

The agency said it initiated the study after being petitioned by tribes and others worried about the development of the Pebble Mine - a decision cheered by conservationists Monday. But an official behind the proposed Pebble Mine project and Gov. Sean Parnell questioned the need for the study.

John Shively, chief executive of Pebble Limited Partnership, said it's premature, noting it's not clear yet what any project would look like. He said the proposal is still being formulated and that it's not likely the company will be ready to seek permits this year.

Parnell's spokeswoman, Sharon Leighow, said the administration believes it would be better to wait for the permit applications before deciding what additional data and scientific analyses are needed to make "competent permitting decisions." She also noted that Parnell has maintained that the fishery will be protected under existing permitting processes.

The issue is divisive, with groups on both sides of the issue running television ads to advocate - with the tone and fervor of a political campaign - for or against a mine.

Critics have said the proposed mine could have a footprint covering 15 square miles, with an open pit and maze of roads and power lines that could fundamentally alter the landscape and disrupt a way of life in rural Alaska. Supporters have acknowledged the development could be large but have countered that it also could last for decades, providing great opportunities for the region, including an infusion of long-term jobs.

The state Legislature last year redirected \$750,000 for a third-party "scientific and multidisciplinary study" of a potential development but questions were raised on the best approach to take with the study. An aide to the new chairwoman of the Legislative Council, charged with overseeing the effort, did not immediately know where that effort stood.

EPA Regional Administrator Dennis McLerran said in a statement that gathering information and getting public comments now - before development occurs - "just makes sense."

"Doing this we can be assured that our future decisions are grounded in the best science and information and in touch with the needs of these communities," he said. "We look forward to working with Alaskans to protect and preserve this valuable resource."

EPA said the study of the Bristol Bay watershed will not be limited to mining projects but will "consider the effects of large-scale development in general." It plans to hold two sets of public meetings in Anchorage and in the Bristol Bay region, gathering public comments during each round. A spokeswoman, Marianne Holsman, said the agency hopes to hold the first set in six to nine months, with the goal of presenting preliminary findings of the analysis. The second round would take place about a year from now, following scientific peer review of the assessment.

Leighow said the EPA's information-gathering process hasn't been clearly defined, leaving the administration skeptical that it will "add value." Tim Bristol, director of Trout Unlimited's Alaska program, called it a "great first step toward protecting Bristol Bay from the dangers of Pebble Mine."

Parnell, in a supplemental budget request for the current fiscal year, asked the Legislature for more than \$328,000 for litigation "to defend the permitting process on state land."

The budget amendment said the request is to cover the costs of defending state permitting and planning processes in lawsuits tied to numerous projects but centered on Pebble.



## EPA's Science lends sense to Pebble Debate

COMPASS: Other points of view

By CHIP TREINEN • February 13, 2011

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that it “will conduct a scientific assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed to better understand how future large-scale development projects may affect water quality and Bristol Bay’s salmon fishery.” While this decision made headlines around the country, as a Bristol Bay commercial fishing business owner and operator, the news really caught my attention.

In the words of the EPA’s Regional Administrator, Dennis McLarren, “Gathering data and getting public input now, before development occurs, just makes sense.” I can rally in favor of something that makes sense, especially when so much effort has gone into public relations campaigns that are tailored for emotional impact. The “scientific assessment” proposed by the EPA can be a reset of the debate so that “... our future decisions are grounded in the best science and information.”

Alaskans deserve a common sense approach when dealing with policy choices that could compromise subsistence, sport and commercial activities as well as families, communities and businesses that rely on the abundance and sustainability of Bristol Bay salmon resources.

Opposition from Bristol Bay fishery stakeholders to the Pebble Mine, as the “large-scale development” in question, should come as no surprise. If developed, miscalculations, accidents or oversights at the mine offer only potentially devastating consequences for the region’s aquatic resources. The collateral effects of mining infrastructure, road construction and an influx of people can also have substantial negative consequences for fish habitat.

In the big, complex and fragile ecosystem that is the Bristol Bay watershed, damage to a particular stream or adjacent wetland is impossible to mitigate in any meaningful way regardless of corporate promises to do so. The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill litigation model showed -- with excruciating clarity -- that our legal system works a lot better for the corporate defendant than it does for the fisherman plaintiff. Overall, my fishing business and livelihood looks pretty vulnerable in the face of this particular large-scale development.

Although the Pebble Partnership is still a year or more away from filing for required mining permits that would begin formal analysis of the project by both state and federal authorities, there are already plenty of relevant facts and independent information to assess the basic concept.

No additional data will change the fact that the desired copper, gold and molybdenum ore is in a porphyry deposit. No additional studies are required to show that porphyry deposits -- Pebble included -- are low-grade ores containing sulfides, the source of acid mine runoff that requires eternal vigilance to control.

No additional engineering can significantly reduce the amount of tailings and overburden that will need to be moved to access the ore in quantities necessary for an economically viable project.

No additional study is needed to know that clean water flow and lots of it is the key component of the region’s salmon abundance.

Even though the Pebble Partnership hasn’t applied for specific mining permits, they have: applied for water rights on Talarik Creek and the South and North forks of the Koktuli River; revealed information on the type, concentration and extent of ore deposits; and publicly floated mine and waste containment plans that defy common sense for a remote, wet, richly productive, and fragile ecosystem located in a seismically active zone.

EPA’s decision to plan for a scientific assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed indicates the agency’s leadership recognizes the importance of the Bristol Bay salmon resource to the region and the state. However, it remains unclear what form the study will take, what the product of the investigation might be, and if or how it will be used.

From my perspective as a commercial fishing business owner and operator who relies on a fishery resource that is highly vulnerable to large-scale industrial activities, I hope that it will make “sense” to use this proposed assessment as a lead up to a more formal process of evaluation that will give proper deference to Bristol Bay’s irreplaceable and perpetually renewable fishery resources.

*Charles W. “Chip” Treinen has fished in a variety of Alaska’s fisheries from Southeast to the Bering Sea for over 30 years. He has owned and operated a Bristol Bay drift gill net business since 2002 and is vice president of United Fishermen of Alaska. He lives in Anchorage.*



## **EPA’s review of Alaska’s Bristol Bay includes Pebble mine**

### **PEBBLE: Unusual move comes before permit applications filed**

By ELIZABETH BLUEMINK, Anchorage Daily News • February 8, 2011

The federal Environmental Protection Agency said Monday that it will review the consequences of large-scale development projects, such as the proposed copper and gold Pebble mine, in the Bristol Bay watershed.

The EPA said it is launching the review in response to petitions last year from several Southwest Alaska tribes, commercial fishing groups and other organizations opposed to Pebble. Those groups are worried about the potential impact of large-scale mining on Bristol Bay’s world-class salmon runs.

The EPA, however, did not give the petitioners what they had requested. The agency declined to formally consider blocking mining waste disposal in waterways downstream of the Pebble deposit. The agency said it might -- or might not -- consider taking that step in the future.

“The Bristol Bay watershed is essential to the health, environment and economy of Alaska,” said EPA Regional Administrator Dennis McLerran.

“Gathering data and getting public review now, before development occurs, just makes sense. Doing this we can be assured that our future decisions are grounded in the best science and information and in touch with the needs of these communities,” McLerran said.

Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act empowers the EPA to veto the disposal of dredged material or to put fill in waterways like the major rivers downstream from Pebble. The agency has only rarely exercised that authority, invoking it about a dozen times since the Clean Water Act passed in 1972, including only once in the western United States.

EPA can use the veto authority if it decides that waste disposal into a particular waterway will cause too much harm to aquatic life, recreational areas or drinking water. Usually, the agency doesn’t launch the process -- which often includes a public hearing -- unless a developer has already applied for permits to build a project. That hasn’t happened yet in Pebble’s case. Incensed about the agency’s role in some large-scale developments in Alaska, including Conoco Phillips’ struggle to expand its Alpine field, U.S. Rep. Don Young has filed legislation this year to revoke EPA’s veto authority in the Clean Water Act.

Last year, Gov. Sean Parnell sent a letter to the EPA asking it not to invoke its veto authority. Among Parnell’s reasons was that a decision to block permits could undermine the state’s land-use authority. The Pebble deposit is located on state land. At least six Bristol Bay tribal governments asked EPA to begin a public review to consider adding protections for the Bristol Bay watershed under the Clean Water Act. Fishing organizations, an eco-tourism group and Native corporations also joined the petition drive. But two other tribal governments in the area asked the agency to delay any action on the matter until the companies seeking to develop Pebble apply for permits.

The companies are not expected to submit permit applications until later this year or next year.

#### REACTION



The reaction from Alaska's Congressional delegation, the Parnell administration, the mining industry and Pebble opponents was mixed.

U.S. Sens. Lisa Murkowski, a Republican, and Mark Begich, a Democrat, praised the EPA for studying the Bristol Bay watershed instead of preemptively blocking the disposal of mining waste in the region.

But Young attacked the EPA, accusing it of "blatantly circumventing" the permit process and said the decision was indicative of "romper-room style" governance by the Obama Administration.

"What will they be reviewing in the absence of a permit application?" Young asked.

Gov. Sean Parnell wants to protect Bristol Bay fisheries under the existing rules and questions the value of the EPA's review, which is still not clearly defined, said his spokeswoman Sharon Leighow.

"It particularly concerns us that EPA is initiating this process before any projects have been proposed," Leighow said. In contrast, the administrator for the Ekwok Tribal Council, one of the tribal governments that petitioned the EPA, said he's happy with the agency's decision and thinks a study will ultimately prevent mine waste from being disposed into salmon streams.

"We believe once they get their data in, there's no other decision they can make," said Rick King, the Ekwok tribal administrator.

Bob Waldrop, who heads one of the several Alaska commercial fishing groups that petitioned the EPA last year, said he is "pleased but not ecstatic" by the agency's announcement.

Waldrop said he's glad that EPA is now taking a bigger role in reviewing Pebble. He said it was a "very deft and appropriate move" by the agency. Yet it falls several steps short of what his group, the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association, and others had hoped for, he said.

"There's no decision at the end of this," he said.

John Shively, who heads the Pebble Partnership, the two-company venture hoping to develop the massive mineral prospect, had no outright objections to the EPA review.

Shively said he's glad that the EPA so far has not vetoed future permits in the Bristol Bay region. It isn't correct for EPA to do that before anyone applies for permits, he said.

He said the Pebble Partnership will begin releasing some of its scientific studies of the Pebble deposit this year.

Steve Borell, executive director of the Alaska Miners Association, said the EPA's decision not to invoke its veto authority at this time is "good news."

"They haven't shut off (Pebble), so I think the science will speak for itself," he said.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

EPA said its scientific review will focus on the Nushagak and Kvichak river drainages, both downstream of the Pebble deposit.

McLerran said the agency will compile a peer-reviewed report on the watersheds that will go out for public comment in six to nine months. A final version of the report will be published in nine months to a year, he said.

Regional and Washington, D.C.-based EPA staff will be involved in the review, he said. At the end of it, the EPA regional office in Seattle "will be charged with making some decisions," he said.

"The petitions are on our mind but we have a lot of options," he said.

In the coming year, the EPA plans to host public meetings and gather information from the mining companies and others who have been studying Pebble.

## 54 jewelers nix gold from Alaska bay

By SANDY BAUERS, Philadelphia Inquirer GreenSpace • February 10, 2011

More and more, people are paying attention to where their jewelry comes from.

For me, anything that comes from my husband is just fine. Just kidding. I've seen campaigns aimed at avoiding certain corals. A friend who just got engaged researched just what kind of diamond she wanted, based on whether it was mined in an environmentally friendly way.

Now, just in time for Valentine's Day -- touted as the biggest day for sales of gold jewelry in the U.S. -- 54 major jewelers have taken a stand on a proposed gold mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

They have pledged not to use gold from the proposed Pebble Mine, which is at the headwaters of Bristol Bay in SW Alaska.

These are big forces at work. The mine would be the largest open-pit mine in America. And environmentalists say it would threaten the world's largest salmon fishery.

And the jewelers represent \$5.75 billion in annual sales. They include Zale Corp., Helzberg Diamonds and Boucheron. Yesterday's announcement -- made by a mining reform group, a Bristol Bay seafood organization and an association of Alaskan villages -- said is the first time a large number of jewelers have taken a position on a specific place or mine. Jewelers are an important voice in this issue because jewelry demand accounts for 80 percent of annual mined production of gold, the groups said.

More from the press release:

Commercial fishermen and the Alaska Native villages of the region who rely on the salmon fishery, which generates roughly \$450 million annually and supplies 10,000 jobs, are asking the Environmental Protection Agency to head off the Pebble project by invoking a provision in the Clean Water Act that would restrict the dumping of mine waste in streams, wetlands and rivers that drain into the Bay. On Monday, the EPA announced that the agency is launching a scientific review of the suitability of large-scale mining in the Bristol Bay watershed, in response to requests from tribes and others. The EPA's action does not represent any regulatory decision by the agency; but "represents EPA's proactive steps to better understand the watershed and gather important scientific information."

"Salmon is life and our red gold," said Kim Williams, executive director for Nunamta Aulukestai (Caretakers of our Land), an association of nine Alaska Native village corporations in Bristol Bay. "It sustains our economy and our people. «The support from jewelers and the recent announcement by EPA are a great gift this Valentine's Day. We're confident that this scientific review will show clearly why Bristol Bay should be protected under Section 404(c)."

"More than half the world's sockeye spawn and are harvested in the waters of Bristol Bay," said Bob Waldrop, executive director of the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association, which represents 1,865 driftnet fishermen. "For the fishery to continue and prosper, the region's water and habitat must be protected."



**section 4**

# **GROWING SUPPORT FOR PROTECTING BRISTOL BAY**

# GROUPS IN FAVOR OF BRISTOL BAY PROTECTION

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL ENTITIES

### TRIBES, COMMUNITIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Bristol Bay Native Corporation  
Bristol Bay Native Association  
Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation  
Curyung Tribal Council  
New Stuyahok Traditional Council  
Ekwok Village Council  
Levelock Village Council  
Nondalton Tribal Council  
Koliganek Village Council  
Ekuk Village Council  
Twin Hills Village Council  
Nunamta Alukestai  
Aleknagik Natives Limited  
Choggiung Village Corporation  
City of Dillingham  
Clarks Point Village Council  
Clarks Point Saguyak, Inc.  
City of Ekwok  
Koliganek Natives Limited  
New Koliganek Native Council  
Manokotak Natives Limited  
Manokotak Village Council  
New Stuyahok Limited  
City of New Stuyahok  
City of Nondalton  
Togiak Natives Corporation  
Nushagak-Mulchatna/Wood Tikchik  
Land Trust  
Togiak Natives Limited

Jake's Nushagak Salmon Camp  
Katmai Air, LLC  
Katmai Guide Service  
Katmailand, Inc.  
Kvichak Anglers  
Mission Creek Lodge  
Mulchatna Wilderness Lodge  
Naknek River Camp  
No See Um Lodge, Inc.  
Rapids Camp Lodge  
Royal Coachman Lodge  
Royal Wolf Lodge  
Ouzel Expeditions, Inc.  
Painter Creek Lodge  
Quartz Creek Lodge  
Rainbow River Lodge  
The Alaska Sportsman's Lodge  
Togiak River Outfitters, LLC  
Reel Wilderness Adventures, Inc.  
River King Outfitters

### LODGES & BUSINESSES

Alagnak Lodge  
Alaska Sportsman's Bear Trail Lodge  
Blueberry Island Lodge  
Branch River Air Service, Inc.  
Bristol Bay Lodge  
Bristol Bay Sportfishing  
Igiugig Lodge, LLC  
Epic Angling & Adventure, LLC





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# ALASKA BASED ENTITIES

## ORGANIZATIONS

State of Alaska Board of Fisheries  
United Fishermen of Alaska  
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association  
Alaska Wilderness Recreation & Tourism Association  
Alaska Association of Student Governments  
Alaska Inter-Tribal Council  
Alaska Jig Association  
Alaska Fly Fishing Adventures  
Alaska's Legend Lodge

EPIC Angling and Adventure, LLC  
Fishing Bear Lodge  
Glacier Guides, Inc.  
Great Alaska Adventure Vacations  
Hitaluga Guide Service, LLC  
Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition  
Mission Creek Lodge, LLC  
Mountain View Sports Center  
Muskeg Excursions  
Ocean Point Alaska Adventures  
River Wrangellers  
Saltery Lodge  
Sea Hawk Air  
Talaheim Lodge  
Westwind Guide Service  
Women's Fly Fishing

## LODGES & BUSINESSES

3 Rivers Fly and Tackle  
Alaska Alpine Adventures  
Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
Alaska Bear Guides  
Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
Alaska Bowhunters Association  
Alaska Fly Anglers, Inc.  
Alaska Fly Fish  
Alaska Fly Fishing Goods  
Alaska Glacier Guides, Inc.  
Alaska Rainbow Adventures  
Alaska Rainbow Lodge  
Alaska Salmon Camp, Inc.  
Alaska Trophy Fishing Safaris  
Alaska West  
Alaska Wilderness Trips, Inc.  
Alaska's Boardwalk Lodge  
Alaska's Wild River Lodge  
Alaskan Leader Tours  
Arctic Wild, LLC  
Baranof Wilderness Lodge  
Beyond Boundaries Expeditions  
Blue Fly Bed & Breakfast and Guide Service  
Blue Mountain Lodge  
Brightwater Alaska, Inc.  
Cape Ommaney Lodge  
Chinook Tours  
Classic Casting Adventures  
Copper River Lodge  
Crystal Creek Lodge  
Denali Fly Fishing Guides, LLC



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# NATIONAL

## ORGANIZATIONS

National Tribal Water Council  
Pacific Seafood Processors Association  
The Nature Conservancy  
American Rivers  
Arizona Wildlife Federation  
Berkley Conservation Institute  
California Waterfowl Association  
EARTHWORKS  
Idaho Wildlife Federation  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
Montana Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
New Mexico Wildlife Federation  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
The Bristol Bay Alliance  
The Wilderness Society  
Trout Unlimited  
Washington Wildlife Federation  
World Wildlife Fund

## OUTDOOR INDUSTRY

7 Days Outdoors  
7Eye  
Abel Quality Products  
Angler's Obsession  
Angling Exploration Group  
Angling Trade magazine  
Barry & Cathy Beck  
Basser Millyard Pty, Ltd.  
Bauer Fly Reels  
Bear Bay Lodge  
Beck Photograpy – Cathy and Barry Beck  
Berkley Conservation Institute  
Beulah Fly Rods  
Big Sky Angler Outfitters  
Big Sky Inflatables, LLC  
Blue Mountain Lumber Co, Inc.  
Bob Marriott's Flyfishing Store  
Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop  
BossTin

Brian O'Keefe  
Brian Russell  
Bristol Bay Adventures  
California Fly Fisher  
California School of Flyfishing  
Canvasfish.com  
Cape Ommaney Lodge  
Capt. Kris Suplee Guide Services  
Carbon Flybox Co.  
Castaway Films  
Castlow Group  
Central Coast Fly Fishing  
Chota Outdoor Gear  
Clackacraft Drift Boats  
Classic Casting Adventures  
Cliff Outdoors  
Cloudveil  
Copper River Lodge  
CND Custom Design  
Cortland Line Co.  
Costa del Mar  
Crescent H Ranch  
Cumings Landing Nets  
Dan Bailey  
Deep Creek Flyfishers  
Deneki Outdoors  
Departure Publishing LLC  
Dr. Slick  
Dragon Tackle International Ltd.  
Katmai Lodge  
Echo Rods / Rajeff Sports  
Elkhorn Fly Rod & Reel  
European Fishing Tackle Trade Association  
Ex Officio  
Far Bank Enterprises  
Federation of Flyfishers  
Federation of Flyfishers, SW Council  
Fetha Styx  
Filson  
Fish & Fly Ltd.  
Fish Alaska Magazine  
Fishing with Fly Guide Service  
Fishpond  
Fladen Fishing AB  
Fly & Fly, Ltd.  
Fly Fishing Film Tour  
Fly Fisherman Magazine

FlyfishMagazine.com  
Fly Logic  
Fly on the Wall Travels, LLC  
Flyfish Radio.com  
FlyFishMagazine.com  
Fly Fishing Show  
Fly Treks  
Fly Water Travel LLC  
Freestone Boatworks, Inc.  
Freestone Flyfishers  
Frontier Media, Inc.  
Frontiers Travel  
G. Loomis  
Gallatin River Lodge  
Galvan Fly Reels  
Gamakatsu  
Gamma Technologies  
Glacier Guides, Inc.  
Great Alaska International  
Adventures Vacations  
Great Lakes Fly Company  
Guideline  
H. Turrall & Co.  
Hackle Shack Fly Shop  
Halco  
Hardy & Greys Limited  
Hardy Greys North America  
Hatch Outdoors  
Hawaii Fishing & Boating Association  
Hendrix Outdoors  
High Country Flies  
Hitalga Guide Service, LLC  
HMH Visers  
Ibex  
Islander Precision Reels  
Jeff Bright Steelhead Flyfishing Expeditions  
Jeff Kennedy Studio  
Jim Teeny, Inc.  
Juneau Flyfishing Goods  
Kaenon Polarized  
Kachemak Guide Bureau  
Kenai River Cabins  
Korkers  
L.L. Bean  
Lateral Line  
Less Ferry Anglers





# PROTECT BRISTOL BAY



Visit [www.sportsmansalliance4ak.org](http://www.sportsmansalliance4ak.org), [www.savebristolbay.org](http://www.savebristolbay.org), and [www.renewableresourcescoalition.org](http://www.renewableresourcescoalition.org) to learn more and get involved.



# Not Worth The Risk

*"Nothing bad will happen. Trust us."* Now where might we have heard that before?

Even with the latest technology and best intentions, accidents do happen. Are we willing to risk one of the world's richest hunting grounds to a risky foreign-owned scheme to develop massive mines in southwest Alaska?

Alaska's famed Bristol Bay region is home to some of the finest hunting on the planet for caribou, moose, and brown bear. These rugged and remote lands also support the biggest wild salmon fishery on the planet. Alarming, 2,500 square miles of prime habitat in southwest Alaska is at risk of being transformed into a massive mining district. It's hard to imagine the region's game and fish doing well among a network of roads, open pits, and toxic tailings ponds.

Hunting is a proud American tradition. For hunting to continue, we need strong and stable game populations and the habitats to support them. In this case, the risk of industrial development to future hunting opportunities and our hunting heritage is simply too high.

**Protect Bristol Bay.**

To learn more, visit [www.SportsmansAlliance4ak.org](http://www.SportsmansAlliance4ak.org)

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Loon Outdoors	St. Joe River Valley Fly Fishers	Boulder Flycasters
LOOP	San Jose Flycaster	Camp Irem Hunting Club
Louie the Fish Guide Service	Scierra	Campfire Club of America
Lucky Craft S.A.R.L.	Scott Fly Rods	Candlewood Valley TU
March Brown	Shadowcaster Charters	Pootatuck Watershed Association, Inc.
Marlows on the Kenai	Shallowfish.com	Colorado Wildlife Federation
Marryat & Smith	SIMMS	Columbia Pacific Anglers Association
Marryat Reels	Sketch and Release	Dallas Safari Club
Mason Tackle Company	Smith Sport Optics, Inc.	Deep Creek Flyfishers
Mayfly Enterprises Ltd. (Waterwisp)	Snake River Outfitters	Federation of Fly Fishers
Midwest Custom Fly Rods	Snowbee USA	Federation of Flyfishers, SW and S
Monster Fish Import.com	Solvkroken A.S.	Councils
Montana Fish Man Guided Fishing	Spinmade Oy	Filson
Montana Fly Company	Sportsystem AB	Gila Trout Chapter
Morris Sporting Group Publications	StoneFly Vineyards	Golden West Women Flyfishers
Mustad Ventures	Streamworks, Inc.	Greywolf Fly Fishing Club
National Wildlife Federation	Sturm, Ruger & Co. Inc.	Heart of America Flyfishers
Nautilus Reels	Sweetwater Travel	Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
New Mexico Trout	Targus	Hunting Life.com
No Brainer Expeditions	Temple Fork Outfitters	Jefferson Rod and Gun Club
Norstream A.S.	The Anglers Bookstore	Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition
North American Media Group	The Best of Kamchatka	Northwest Guides and Anglers
Northwest Anglers Experience	The Fly Fishing Show	Association
Nushagak River Fishing Lodge	The Fly Shop – Travel Dept.	Northwest Sportsfishing Industry
Oakley	The School of Fly Fishing	Association
Off the Beaten Path	The Stonefly Inn and Outfitters	Oregon Anglers
OPM Fishing Tackle, Ltd.	The Trout Underground	Overlake Fly Fishermen
Optic Nerve / Mountain Shades	The Waterworks/Lamson	Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's
Orvis	Thomas & Thomas Fly Rods	Associations
Outcast Sporting Gear	Tibor Reel Corporation	PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Painter Creek Lodge	Tight Line Fly Fishing	Payton Flycasters Club
Park City Outfitters	Tosh Brown Photography	Recreational Fishing Alliance
Pat Ford Photography	Triangle Fly Fishers	Renewable Resources Coalition
Patagonia	Turneffe Flats Resort – Belize	Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen Club
Pure Fishing USA	Umpqua Feather Merchants	Santa Lucia Fly Fishers
Prairie Pothole Consulting (PPC)	USAonthefly.com	Southwest Missouri Fly Fishers
Pro-Troll	Vision Group, Ltd.	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
Rainbow Point Lodge LLC	Vosseler Pro-Flyfishing	Partnership
Rajeff Sports	Westwind Guide Service	The Knowledge Group, Inc.
Reel Wilderness Adventures	Wapsi	Triangle Fly Fishers
Redington	Whitefish Studio	Trout Unlimited
Renzetti	Wilcox Marketing and Sales	Tulsa Fly Fishers
Richard Wheatley Ltd.	William Joseph	Washington Fly Fishing Club
RIO	Woolrich	Waterwatch of Oregon
Rising	Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures	White Mountain Fly Fishing Club
Ro Drift Boats	Zalt AB	Wildlife Forever (North American
Rollcast Productions	Zpey System A.S.	Hunting Club & North American
Ross Reels	American Flyfishing Trade Association	Fishing Club)
RST – Angelgerate GmbH	American Sportfishing Association	Wilderness Fly Fishers
Ryan Anderson	Arizona Flycasters Club	Wild Steelhead Coalition
SAGE	Association of Northwest Steelheaders	WorldCast Anglers
Saint Croix Rods		

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## JEWELERS

Tiffany & Co.  
Zale  
Jostens  
Mappin & Webb  
Watches of Switzerland  
Fraser and Hart  
Helzberg Diamonds  
Boucheron  
Herff-Jones  
Goldsmiths  
Ben Bridge  
Birks & Mayors  
Commemorative Brands, Inc.  
John Hardy  
Beaver Brooks  
JewelMak  
Security Jewelers  
Reflective Images  
Brilliant Earth  
CRED Jewellery  
Hacker Jewelers  
Leber Jeweler  
Ingle & Rhode  
Oria Blakes Fine Jewelry  
Fifi Bijoux  
April Doubleday  
McTeigue & McClelland  
Blair Lauren Brown  
Toby Pomeroy  
Michaels Jewelers  
Open Source Minerals  
Real Jewels  
Fair Trade in Gems and Jewelry  
Alberto Parada  
Ingle & Rhode  
Allyson's Designs  
Ken Vickerson Designs  
Refined Designs  
ADA - JITO  
John Leonard Studios  
Penabilli  
Clauda A. Designs  
Professor Sharon Church  
Alexandra Hart  
Rachelle Thiewes  
Molly Dingleline Jewelry  
Shelby Fitzpatrick Jewelry  
Bryan Park Metalsmithing

Donald Beaubier Goldsmith  
Christine Bossler  
Oria  
John Hardy Otley Jewellers  
The Ethical Jeweller  
Abigail Brown  
EE Robbins

## CHEFS & RESTAURANTS

Aaron Willis  
Summit House  
Adam Danforth  
Marlow and Daughters  
Adam N. Hoffman  
Rover's Restaurant  
Alan Hummel  
New Seasons Market  
Amy Grondin  
Grondin Consulting  
Angela Toner  
Personal Chef Angela  
Anna Li  
The Essential Baking  
Company  
Anthony Polizzi  
Steelhead Diner  
Ashley Koff  
Ashley Koff Approved  
Barbara Aderson  
Goddess Personal  
Chef Service  
Barton Seaver  
Blue Ridge Restaurant  
/ For Cod and Country  
Becky selengut  
Cornucopia Cuisine  
Bill Morris  
The Rainier Club  
Bryan Dolieslager, CCM, CEC  
Evergreen Country Club  
Bryan Szeliga Lucy's Table  
Bun Lai Miya's Sushi  
Buzz Hufford  
Bon Appetit Management  
Company

Casson Trenor  
Tataki Sushi and Sake Bar  
Cathy Whims  
Nostrana  
Charles Finkel  
The Pike Pub and Brewery  
Chris Logsdon  
Chris Logsdon Catering  
Christine Keff  
Flying Fish  
Christopher Wang  
Sea Education Association  
Connie Adams  
SeattleDINING.com  
Cory Carman  
Carman Ranch  
Dana Cress  
Salty's on the Columbia  
David E. Ross  
David Ivey-Soto MBA, CEC, CCA  
American Culinary Federation  
David Knaus  
Fresh earth Gardens  
David Sauer  
OceanWide Seafood  
Dustin Ronspies  
Art of the Table  
Edie Pierson  
Simply Seasoned Catering  
Edward M Glennon Jr  
Back Eddy Bistro  
Elaine Johnson  
Sunset Magazine  
Elaine Osuna  
A Cote Restaurant  
Eli Penberthy  
PCC Sound Consumer  
Elizabeth Woessner  
The Underground Gourmet  
Ellen Jackson  
foodprintstyle  
Forest Bell  
Congressional Country Club  
Gavan Murphy  
The Healthy Irishman Events  
George Rudolph  
Sunset Cork Room  
Gerard Thompson  
Rough Creek Lodge & Resort



Gerard Viverito Savour Fine Catering and Event Design	Julie Minadeo Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada	Mark Mendez Carnivale
Gina Truhe Trattoria Vivolo/Food is My Porn	Justin Durand Athletic Club of Columbus	Mark Roberthon Cafe Des Amis
Helene Kennan Bon Appetit Management Company	Justin E Tedford One Twenty Six	Marty Cummins The Lemmons Company
Henry Lovejoy EcoFish, Inc.	Karen Ripley Karen Ripley Health Counselor and Whole Food Chef	Mary Loos Chefs' Collaborative member
Hunter Chamness Bones	Kathryn Bliss Rendezvous Grill and Tap Room	Max Chapman Flaming Eggplant Café
Ian A. Ale CEC-CCE-AAC Virginia Culinary School	Ken Martin New Seasons Market	Megan Goble Champagnes Cafe
J. Huston Farm to Table Food Services	Kevin Cottle The Country Club of Farmington	Meggen Chadsey Seattle Chefs Collaborative
Jack Henniger BridgePort BrewPub	Kevin Davis Blueacre Seafood	Melissa LeClair Vibrant Chef Services
Jacquelyn Brassell Chef Jax Concepts	Kevin Davis Steelhead Diner	Michael Lynch Food and Finance High School
Jade Castillo Soiree Catering	Kin Lui Tataki Sushi and Sake Bar	Michael Rosen, CEC The Speedway Club at Charlotte Motor Speedway
Jake Greenberg Classic Foods, Ltd	Kori Green korianne Designs	Michael Sternberg Harry's Tap Room
James Morris Evergreen Country Club	Kristin Kelly Kristy's Cuisine	Mike Anderson Parental Guidance, Inc.
Jane Lee Jadon Foods	Kristofor Sandholm Starfish Brasserie	Moses Boone Colored Planet Connexion
Jarad Gallagher Lake Chalet Seafood Bar and Grill	Kurt Kwiatkowski Michigan State University	Nan Ellis Mendham High School
Jeff McClelland The Harbour Public House	Kurt Kwiatkowski Michigan State University	Nikki Moore FOOD LOVE
Jeffrey Mora Metropolitan Culinary Services, Inc	Lisa Lanxon/Chef Cana's Feast Winery	Patricia Cyman Ranch House Restaurant
Jennifer Girvin Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly	Lisa Schroeder Mother's Bistro & Bar	Patricia Gadsby Falmouth Farmers Market
Jerry huisinga Bar Mingo	Lisa Schroeder Mama Mia Trattoria	Patricia McCormick Patrick Klinger Burgerville
Joel Chenet Mill Bay Coffee & Pastries	Lola Jane Probert Jealous Snails, Llc.	Paul Hutchinson Chancellor's Village
John arsenault Sol	Marcel Fernandez Bottega Grill	Paul Johnson Monterey Fish Market
John Ash John Ash & Company	Marcia J Hara Illahe Hills Country Club	
John Tesar DRG Concepts	Mark Bodinet Copperleaf Restaurant at Cedarbrook Lodge	
Joshua Riffle Antone Ranch	Mark Dommen One Market Restaurant, San Francisco	
Julia Landau Slow Food USA		

Quentin Topping  
Google  
Ramona White  
Oregon Culinary institute  
Ray Brantley  
Rosewood Mansion on  
Turtle Creek  
Ray Chen  
Marine Club  
Raymond Carpenter  
Laurel Creek Country Club  
Raymond Ho  
Tataki Sushi and Sake Bar  
Rick Moonen  
RM Seafood  
Rob Salvino  
Terra Preta Sales  
Robert Kramer  
Higgins Restaurant  
Robert Marcarelli  
PPX Hospitality - Restaurant  
Consultant  
Robin Leventhal  
Crave, LLC  
Roland G. Henin, CMC  
Delaware North Companies  
Ronnie MacQuarrie  
New Seasons Market  
Rose Ann Finkel  
Pike Brewing Company  
Roy Breiman  
Copperleaf Restaurant  
Roy Finamore  
TASTYcentral.com  
Sarah Schafer  
Irving Street Kitchen  
Scott Justis  
Nelbud Service Group  
Scott Thomas  
Whitetail Club  
Seth Caswell  
Emmer&Rye Restaurant  
Sharon Montoya-Welsh  
Oyster Cookery  
Sheila Bowman  
Seafood Watch Program,  
Monterey Bay Aq.  
Stacey givens  
The Side Yard Farm

Stephen Sheer  
CHEF FLEX  
Susan Brothers Williams  
Jack's Cafe  
Suzanne Scalfaro  
Suzanne Scalfaro, Chef LLC  
Tana Hickey  
New Seasons Market  
Thierry Rautureau  
Rover's and Luc  
Tim Stein  
Hospitality Sustainability Resources  
Timothy P. Keating  
The Flying Fish Cafe  
Tom Colicchio  
Craft Restaurants, 'wichcraft,  
Colicchio & Sons  
Tom Yarter  
New Seasons Market  
Tony Meyers  
Serratto  
Tracy Green  
Newport High School  
Tracy Lamothe  
Riva's Trattoria, Inc.  
Tricia Bailey  
Tricia Bailey  
Tricia Butler  
Sassafras Catering  
Vincent Clyne, CWP  
Chefscool, Clyne and Murphy  
Vincent J. Alberici, CEC  
Vito DiLullo  
Ciao Vito  
Wayne Johnson  
Andaluca Restaurant  
William A. Martin  
Tastings Wine Bar & Bistro  
William Alexander  
One. Six One



# LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR BRISTOL BAY PROTECTION

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Numerous important local, state and national groups have expressed the need for protecting Bristol Bay's fish, wildlife and community resources and many have asked the EPA to initiate the 404c process. Below is a list of some of the key groups; their respective letters follow.

- Bristol Bay Native Corporation
- Bristol Bay Native Association
- A Joint Letter From
  - Nondalton Tribal Council*
  - Koliganik Village Council*
  - New Stuyahok Traditional Council*
  - Ekwok Village Council*
  - Curyung Tribal Council*
  - Levelock Village Council*
- Ekuk Village Council
- Twin Hills Village Council
- United Fisherman of Alaska
- Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association
- Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association
- Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association
- National Sportsmen's Letter
- The Episcopal Church
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- National Council of Churches USA
- Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness
- United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
- United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
- Chefs from throughout the United States
- Tiffany & Co.
- The Nature Conservancy of Alaska Statement

*If you would like full copies of any of the enclosed letters please contact us at [sbrown@tu.org](mailto:sbrown@tu.org) and we will send them to you.*





# Bristol Bay Native Corporation

*Enriching Our Native Way of Life*

111 West 16th Avenue, Suite 400 / Anchorage, Alaska 99501 / (907) 278-3602 / Fax (907) 276-3924

August 12, 2010

Dennis J. McLerran, Regional Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Phone: (206) 553-1200, (800) 424-4372  
Fax: (206) 553-2955

Via electronic and first class mail

Re: Clean Water Act 404(c) process to prohibit certain lands from use as a disposal site for dredged or fill material

Dear Mr. McLerran:

Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) respectfully requests that EPA initiate a public administrative process to carefully tailor a prohibition of the discharge of dredged or fill material from the proposed Pebble mine, located on specific land owned by the State of Alaska at the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak River drainages under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act. The Act authorizes the Administrator of EPA to prohibit, restrict, or deny the discharge of dredged or fill material at defined sites in waters of the United States (including wetlands) when the use of such sites for disposal would have an unacceptable adverse impact on fisheries, wildlife, municipal water supplies, or recreational areas. This request fully meets those requirements.

The Pebble Limited Partnership (PLP)<sup>1</sup> has mining claims in the Bristol Bay region, and proposes a large scale metallic sulfide mine in this area. The massive scope of PLP's proposed mine, the importance and sensitivity of these river drainages and the known facts about the persistence and permanence of impacts to water quality from this type of mining activity are clear indicators that a mine such as that proposed by PLP would present an unacceptable risk of irreparable harm to water, fishery and wildlife resources.

## **Bristol Bay Native Corporation Background**

BBNC is a for-profit corporation created by Congress pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to represent the economic, social and cultural interests of the Native people from the Bristol Bay region of Alaska. BBNC represents almost 8,700 shareholders.

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<sup>1</sup> Pebble Limited Partnership is a 50:50 partnership between Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd and Anglo American PLC.

**BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. Box 310**  
**DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576**  
**(907) 842-5257**

**By Full Board of Directors**

**Resolution 2010 - 32**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO INVOKE SECTION 404(c) OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT AS APPROPRIATE IN THE KVICHAK AND NUSHAGAK DRAINAGES OF THE BRISTOL BAY WATERSHED TO PROTECT HABITAT AND EXISTING USES**

**WHEREAS:** The Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) is an Alaska Native non-profit corporation and tribal consortium serving the 31 federally recognized tribes in the Bristol Bay Region; and

**WHEREAS:** BBNA is in support of environmentally responsible economic and community development; and

**WHEREAS:** BBNA does not support development that is adverse and/or detrimental to the renewable and sustainable resources of the region to include habitat and subsistence, commercial, and sport fishing and hunting; and

**WHEREAS:** Bristol Bay enjoys a pristine environment, has world-class hunting and fishing, and was recently referred to as a "national treasure" by the Obama administration; and

**WHEREAS:** BBNA opposes any disposal of waste into any waters that would have an adverse impact on our resources; and

**WHEREAS:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act can prohibit or restrict the discharge of dredge or fill material at defined sites in the United States (including wetlands) "when the use of such sites for disposal would have an unacceptable adverse impact on fisheries, wildlife, municipal water supplies, or recreational areas" before an application is filed; and

**WHEREAS:** The headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak River drainages fully meet those requirements under the Clean Water Act; and

**WHEREAS:** The Environmental Protection Agency should, considering the importance and sensitivity of these river drainages to toxic discharges of any kind, and considering the persistence and permanence of impacts to water quality from any type of toxic discharges, protect the water, habitat and subsistence, commercial, and sport fish and wildlife renewable resources by invoking Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act; and

**WHEREAS:** The Environmental Protection Agency should not wait for development permits to be filed by development organizations to protect these scarce, financially viable, sustainable, renewable, and critical resources before taking action.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Full Board of Directors of the Bristol Bay Native Association that it strongly requests the EPA to use its authority under section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to protect the habitat and subsistence, commercial, and sport fish and wildlife renewable resources by prohibiting or otherwise restricting discharge of dredged or fill material in the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak River drainages of Bristol Bay; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that BBNA requests that the EPA take such action prior to any permit application submission to the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that BBNA requests the EPA to work with the Tribes and other stakeholders to identify routine dredge and fill activities that would not be subject to EPA action under Section 404(c).

Signed: Fred J. Angason  
Chairman of the Board

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Bristol Bay Native Association, Inc., do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly passed by the Full Board of Directors of the Bristol Bay Native Association and a duly called and noticed meeting on the 17 day of September 2010, and that a quorum was present.

Signed: Robert Haysano  
Secretary



## A JOINT LETTER

From Six Federally-recognized Tribes  
in the Kvichak and Nushagak River Drainages of Southwest Alaska:  
Nondalton Tribal Council, Koliganik Village Council, New Stuyahok Traditional Council,  
Ekwok Village Council, Curyung Tribal Council, Levelock Village Council

May 2, 2010 (mailed May 21, 2010)

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dennis J. McLerran, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Regional Administrator's Office, RA-140  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Tribes request that EPA initiate a public process under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act, to protect waters, wetlands, fish, wildlife, fisheries, subsistence and public uses in the Kvichak and Nushagak drainages and Bristol Bay of Southwest Alaska from metallic sulfide mining, including a potential Pebble mine.

Dear Ms. Jackson and Mr. McLerran:

Our federally recognized tribes, from the Kvichak and Nushagak river drainages of southwest Alaska, have government-to-government relations with the United States, and are represented by the undersigned tribal councils. We are writing with assistance of counsel.

Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act authorizes EPA to prohibit or restrict the discharge of dredge or fill material, including mine wastes, at defined sites in waters of the United States, including wetlands, whenever EPA determines, after notice and opportunity for hearing, that the use of such sites for disposal would have an "unacceptable adverse effect" on fisheries, wildlife, municipal water supplies or recreational areas. EPA may do so *prior* to applications for permits to discharge such material. 40 CFR 231.1(a). "Unacceptable adverse effect" is defined as:

impact on an aquatic or wetland ecosystem which is *likely* to result in significant degradation of municipal water supplies (including surface or ground water) or significant loss of or damage to fisheries, shellfishing, or wildlife habitat or recreation areas. In evaluating the unacceptability of such impacts, consideration should be given to the relevant portions of the section 404(b)(1) guidelines (40 CFR Part 230).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 40 CFR 231.2(e) (*italics added*). The purposes of the 404(b)(1) Guidelines are "to restore and *maintain* the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters of the United States through the control of discharges of dredged or fill material," and to implement Congressional policies

We request that EPA initiate a 404(c) public process to identify wetlands and waters in the *Kvichak and Nushagak river drainages* of southwest Alaska, where discharges associated with potential *large scale metallic sulfide mining*, could be prohibited or restricted due to such effects. This initial scope would include the Pebble deposit (which straddles a divide between these drainages) and other metallic sulfide deposits in the area of that deposit. (We understand that Kemuk Mountain may be the site of another metallic sulfide deposit.) During such a public process, some members of the public may urge a broader or narrower scope. The “scope” of a 404(c) process is one of many issues that should be resolved through a public process. The deposits in the area of the Pebble claims, which precipitate this situation, should be included.

We are addressing this to both of you because: (1) 40 CFR 231.3(a) provides that a regional administrator makes the decision of whether to initiate a 404(c) public process; (2) in this instance, initiating a 404(c) process effectuates three of EPA’s national priorities,<sup>2</sup> and three of EPA’s regional priorities;<sup>3</sup> (3) initiating a 404(c) process promotes EPA’s goal that decisions be based on science, law, transparency, and stronger EPA oversight;<sup>4</sup> and (4) doing so is consistent with EPA’s national priorities of increased oversight of mineral processing<sup>5</sup> and

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expressed in the Clean Water Act. The Guidelines establish a rebuttable presumption against allowing any discharge unless it can be demonstrated that the discharge will not have an unacceptable adverse impact “*either individually or in combination* with known and/or probable impacts of other activities affecting the ecosystems of concern.” The Guidelines declare:

From a national perspective, the degradation or destruction of special aquatic sites, such as filling operations in *wetlands*, is considered to be among the most *severe* environmental impacts covered by these Guidelines. The *guiding principle* should be that degradation or destruction of special sites [such as wetlands] may represent an irreversible loss of valuable aquatic resources.

40 CFR 230.1 (*italics added*). The Guidelines address direct, cumulative and secondary effects. 40 CFR 230.11. Secondary effects are those associated with a discharge, but do not result from actual placement of the material, and must be considered prior to agency action under §404. 40 CFR 230.11(h)(1). In this case, a 404(c) process should address potential secondary effects on commercial, subsistence, and recreational fishing and hunting, and public use of parks and preserves. *See* 40 CFR Part 230, subpart F. All are at issue as discussed herein and in attached letter from counsel, and in the briefing paper attached to enclosed letter to State Rep. Edgmon.

<sup>2</sup> These include: (1) protecting America’s waters; (2) expanding the public conversation on environmentalism and working for environmental justice; and (3) forging strong partnerships between EPA, tribes and states. *See* EPA’s seven national priorities at <http://blog.epa.gov/administrator/2010/01/12/seven-priorities-for-epas-future/#more-636>.

<sup>3</sup> These include: (1) working with Tribal Governments to protect and restore the natural resources on which tribal communities rely for their physical, cultural and economic well-being; (2) protecting and restoring watersheds; and (3) promoting sustainable practices and strategic partnerships, including with tribal governments. *See* EPA’s six regional priorities at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/EXTAFF.NSF/Reports/2007-2011+Region+10+Strategy> (last visited Feb. 12, 2010), and EPA’s Region 10 Strategy for Enhancing Tribal Environments at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/EXTAFF.NSF/Reports/07-11+Tribal> (last visited Feb 12, 2010).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* Pebble mine also raises issues that may require the assistance of EPA staff in other offices.

<sup>5</sup> EPA’s national priorities for enforcement and compliance for FY 2008 – 2010 and FY 2011 – 2013 (proposed) are at <http://www.epa.gov/oecaerth/data/planning/priorities/index.html#new>.

increased attention to Environmental Justice. Furthermore, EPA's on-going 404(c) process with respect to the Spruce No. 1 mine in West Virginia indicates that EPA prefers to be proactive, *i.e.*, "to address environmental concerns effectively *prior* to permit issuance."<sup>6</sup>

We make this request for the following reasons.

**1. The cultural, ecological and economic importance of the Kvichak and Nushagak river drainages, and the magnitude of a potential Pebble mine, indicate that the scope of a 404(c) public process should be broad at the outset.**

Pursuant to 40 CFR 231.3(a), a Regional Administrator's *initial* decision of whether to commence a 404(c) process turns on whether there is "*reason to believe*" that "an 'unacceptable adverse effect' *could* result." (Italics added). This initial decision is based upon "evaluating the information available."<sup>7</sup>

The Kvichak River drainage historically produces more sockeye salmon than any other drainage in the world. Sockeye salmon drive the commercial salmon fisheries of Bristol Bay, which are the state's most valuable salmon fisheries. Within the Bristol Bay drainages, the Nushagak River drainage, also produces vast numbers of sockeye, and produces the largest runs of other species, including chinook, coho, chum and pink salmon. Both drainages are critical to the wild commercial salmon fisheries, subsistence fisheries, internationally famous sport fisheries, and abundant wildlife. The fish serve many onshore, near-shore and offshore uses and ecological functions, including in the North Pacific. The drainages provide water supplies to numerous villages and communities, many of which are substantially populated by Alaska Native people.<sup>8</sup>

The Pebble Limited Partnership (PLP), which seeks to develop the Pebble mining claims, divides them into "Pebble West" and "Pebble East." The former may be susceptible to an open pit mine. The latter (a more recent discovery) may be susceptible to an underground mine.<sup>9</sup> In

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<sup>6</sup> See EPA, Spruce No. 1 Mine 404(c) Questions & Answers for Web Posting, Oct. 16, 2009 (italics added), [http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/pdf/spruce\\_1\\_Oct\\_16\\_2009\\_q\\_and\\_a.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/pdf/spruce_1_Oct_16_2009_q_and_a.pdf) (visited Jan. 26, 2010). EPA took this position when it invoked the 404(c) public process after years of working with the applicant and other agencies. Spruce No. 1 is the largest proposed mountaintop removal operation in Appalachia, would clear 2200 acres, and fill seven miles of streams. By contrast, just the open pit portion of a Pebble mine (per applications filed in 2006 and subsequently suspended) would be about two square miles (over 46,000 acres).

<sup>7</sup> Because EPA staff has access to EPA's materials, our counsel have prepared an Appendix which lists other potentially relevant documents, from other agencies, the mining claimants, academic or professional publications, professional papers, and presidential documents applicable to environmental issues, tribal relations, and environmental justice. We assume that none would be overlooked and simply call these documents to your attention.

<sup>8</sup> Nondalton is closer to a potential Pebble mine than any other community. Dillingham's Curyung Tribal Council represents the largest tribe in the Bristol Bay drainages of about 2400 members. Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwok and Levelock are downstream of Pebble.

<sup>9</sup> EPA routinely recognizes that mine voids, from open pit and underground mines, are sources of acid mine drainage. We call to your attention P. Younger, "*Don't forget the voids: aquatic*



2006, Northern Dynasty Mines, Inc. (NDM)<sup>10</sup> filed, and then supplemented, nine applications with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), and then requested ADNR to suspend them. ADNR did so. Four applications sought to appropriate water. Five sought to construct tailings impoundment dams.<sup>11</sup> These nine applications were based *solely* on Pebble West. The surface area of the water of just two tailings impoundments, as then proposed, would have covered over ten square miles (6400 acres). "Beaches" of waste would have surrounded the impoundments created by five dams or embankments up to 740 feet high and several miles long.

The 2006 applications for Pebble West showed that NDM had considered about a dozen potential waste disposal sites. All or many appeared to involve vast wetlands under EPA's jurisdiction. The proposed open pit would have involved about 16.5 miles of 54-inch diameter pipelines to manage discharge tailings, and over two hundred miles of 15-inch diameter pipelines to transport a slurry concentrate for dewatering and ocean shipment from Cook Inlet, and to return used slurry water to the mine facilities. After suspending the applications, PLP has concentrated on exploring Pebble East. It has resulted in more than doubling the amount of potential mine waste, to about ten billion tons of waste. Hence, the questions of where, how and whether the vast volume of waste can be safely and permanently handled are major unresolved issues that involve a vast amount of discharge under Section 404 into a vast amount of wetlands.

Because a Pebble mine, associated facilities, and similar metallic sulfide mines could also have various direct, cumulative, secondary adverse effects in combination with other impacts over a vast area, our tribes recommend that EPA consider a wide geographic area of the Kvichak and Nushagak drainages for purposes of § 404(c), at least initially for a public process. Our reasons include: (1) the importance of the Kvichak and Nushagak drainages for fish, wildlife, and commercial, subsistence and recreational use of fish and wildlife; and the abundance of waters and wetlands that support fish, wildlife and public uses; (2) the location of the Pebble deposit at a divide between Upper Talarik Creek, which flows directly to Iliamna Lake (a significant rearing lake for sockeye salmon) in the Kvichak drainage, and the North and South Forks of the Koktuli River in the Nushagak drainage; (3) the large scale of the deposit and a Pebble mine;<sup>12</sup> (4) the acid generating potential of the host rock, voids, wastes, and dust; (5) the necessity of dewatering a vast area, likely to great depths; (6) the fact that no comparable mine apparently exists in terms of risk to commercial salmon fisheries, subsistence, recreation, and

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*pollution from abandoned mines in Europe,"* submitted at the Workshop on Mine and Quarry Waste – the Burden from the Past, held by the Dir. Gen. for the Envir. and Jt. Research Cen. for EU and EC nations, at Orta, Italy, 2002. The paper indicates that voids can vastly exceed waste depositories as sources of water pollution (see Table 1 therein, and discussion); see [http://viso.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pecomines\\_ext/events/workshop/ProceedingsOrtaWorkshop.pdf](http://viso.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pecomines_ext/events/workshop/ProceedingsOrtaWorkshop.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> We understand that NDM is the American subsidiary of Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd., of which an affiliate is apparently a partner in PLP. See announcement of PLP partnership at [http://www.northerndynastyminerals.com/ndm/NewsReleases.asp?ReportID=336841&\\_Type=News-Releases&\\_Title=Northern-Dynasty-Anglo-American-Establish-5050-Partnership-To-Advance-Pebbl...](http://www.northerndynastyminerals.com/ndm/NewsReleases.asp?ReportID=336841&_Type=News-Releases&_Title=Northern-Dynasty-Anglo-American-Establish-5050-Partnership-To-Advance-Pebbl...)

<sup>11</sup> The applications comprise over 2000 pages. The attached appendix lists the website posting them. A law journal article (listed in the appendix) summarizes these applications.

<sup>12</sup> The financial commitment necessary to develop Pebble mine is huge, for various reasons such as the cost of power, and is inconceivable as a small mine.

abundance of wetlands and water proximate to ground level; (7) the apparent existence of other metallic sulfide deposits in the Pebble area and perhaps at Kemuk Mountain; (8) the likelihood that discharge of dredge and fill material, including mine wastes from a Pebble mine or similar mines, and dewatering, will adversely affect vast amounts of wetlands and waters; (9) the facts that the behavior of metallic sulfide mines is difficult to predict; that the record of preventing water pollution from them is not good; that acid mine drainage is a major risk; and that this risk is perhaps increased by abundance of surface and groundwater;<sup>13</sup> (10) the facts that Pebble implies a huge quantity of potential mine waste (perhaps ten billion tons), uncertainty over how wastes might be handled, and that pipelines could move wastes to various discharge sites; (11) the immensity of the task of containing contaminants forever, including acid drainage; (12) the magnitude of potential direct, cumulative, and secondary effects on commercial fishing,<sup>14</sup> subsistence and recreation, including in combination with increased population, access and competition for fish and game;<sup>15</sup> (13) the ecological functions that salmon perform throughout their life cycle in marine and fresh waters; (14) the fact that juvenile salmon have been shown to be present in many waters within the Pebble claims where salmon had been undocumented previously for purposes of the state's Anadromous Fish Act; (15) the likelihood that a transportation route to Cook Inlet could implicate significant beach spawning of sockeye salmon in the north-eastern portion of Iliamna Lake; (16) the likelihood that a Pebble mine, its transportation corridor, and nearby settlement areas could adversely affect areas previously identified as by the State as (a) "essential" moose wintering areas, or "important" spring-, summer- and fall moose habitats, (b) "essential" caribou calving grounds, and (c) "essential" brown bear concentration streams; and (17) the vast amount of compensatory mitigation likely to be required and its questionable sufficiency.<sup>16</sup> All these reasons justify a broad initial scope for a 404(c) process.

**2. The magnitude of the issues and PLP's recent decision to terminate its Technical Working Groups justify an EPA decision to commence a 404(c) process at this time.**

Moreover, the process should be commenced at this time. PLP recently terminated its Technical Working Groups (TWGs), approximately ten in number. They were composed of federal and state officials who, in an advisory capacity, had sought for several years to review and comment upon PLP's baseline study plans before PLP implemented them, and to review results, in order to advise PLP as it progressed toward an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). During the life of these working groups, information suggests that PLP was not as forthcoming as agency officials had hoped.

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<sup>13</sup> The State of Wisconsin has imposed a moratorium on permits for metallic sulfide mining, by requiring that before permits may issue, a proponent demonstrate one such mine in North America that has operated for ten years without polluting water, and one that has closed for ten years without polluting water. Thus, water pollution at Pebble appears likely.

<sup>14</sup> A listing under the Endangered Species Act of a stock of salmon bound for the Kvichak or Nushagak drainages could affect the commercial fisheries in Bristol Bay.

<sup>15</sup> See accompanying letter from counsel addressing likely effects on subsistence and recreational use from a potential Pebble mine.

<sup>16</sup> For such reasons, much of this issue is characterized as short-term private interests in mining a nonrenewable resource versus long-term public/quasi-public interests in commercial, subsistence and recreational uses of fish, wildlife, waters and other renewable resources on public lands.

PLP's decision to end the TWGs strongly suggests that federal, state and tribal entities may be more likely to face greater informational deficits as they head into an EIS process, than might have been otherwise. Commencing a 404(c) process may help to remedy some of these information deficits before PLP finalizes its design, submits applications, and triggers an EIS.

Because of the magnitude of the issues, all parties (*e.g.*, PLP, federal, state, local and tribal entities, and the public) will benefit from EPA initiating a 404(c) process *before*, and not *after*, PLP submits its anticipated permit applications for a proposed Pebble mine, and *before* an EIS process commences.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, because the potential to invoke a 404(c) process exists, postponing an initial decision to do so until applications are filed serves no affected party.<sup>18</sup>

**3. EPA should commence a 404(c) public process in part because infirmities in the State's 2005 Bristol Bay Area Plan render waiting for the EIS process impractical.**

Our request asks EPA to commence a 404(c) process before an EIS process has begun or run its course. Ordinarily, the analysis of alternatives required by NEPA should provide the information for the evaluation of alternatives under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. 40 CFR 230.10(a)(4). However, in this instance, infirmities in the State's 2005 Bristol Bay Area Plan (2005 BBAP) render waiting for the NEPA/EIS process impractical.

We are enclosing copies of two other letters, which address the methods that ADNR employed in preparing its 2005 BBAP.<sup>19</sup> It classifies state land, including at Pebble, its access corridor, and nearby settlement lands, into land classification categories and establishes guidelines and statements of intent. The methods used by the 2005 BBAP to do so include:

1. using primarily *marine* criteria, such as whether land is a walrus haulout, to determine whether *inland uplands*, such as those at Pebble, qualify for classification as fish and wildlife habitat (*see* 2005 BBAP, p. 2-9; a link to the 2005 BBAP is in the Appendix);
2. *omission of salmon in non-navigable waters* from the process of designating and classifying land as habitat (*see* 2005 BBAP, pp. 3-323 – 3-330);
3. *omission of moose and caribou* from that process (*see* 2005 BBAP, p. 2-9);
4. lack of a *land use classification category for subsistence hunting and fishing*, while ADNR has a public recreation land category that includes *sport hunting and fishing* (*see* ADNR's land planning regulations at 11 AAC 55.050 – .230 and 2005 BBAP); and then

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<sup>17</sup> PLP recently postponed its applications from 2010 until 2011, and may delay further.

<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, a 404(c) process appears to be less costly than an EIS. Facing issues proactively could reduce all costs of agencies, PLP and the public prior to and during an EIS.

<sup>19</sup> One letter, from our counsel to Col. Koenig, of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, and Mr. John Pavitt of EPA's Alaska Operations Office, seeks discussions of whether the tribes may be cooperating agencies on any EIS prepared for a proposed Pebble mine. The other, from our six tribes and the Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association (AIFMA), urges State Rep. Edgmon, while the Alaska legislature is out of session, to facilitate public discussions in the region of whether the legislature should consider legislation to establish a state fish and game refuge or critical habitat area that would include most state land in the Kvichak and Nushagak drainages, including land at the Pebble site.



5. defining recreation as *excluding* sport hunting and fishing for purposes of preparing the 2005 BBAP (see 2005 BBAP, p. A-11).<sup>20</sup>

Based on these and other methods, the 2005 BBAP reclassifies land at Pebble as solely as mineral land, extinguishes habitat classifications of the prior 1984 BBAP on nearly all wetlands, including those that are hydrologically important to fish habitat (a concern in the 1984 BBAP), and almost totally omits references to wetlands in planning units for state land in the Nushagak and Kvichak drainages. As explained in the letter to the Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, and the EPA Alaska Operations Office, as long as the 2005 BBAP is in effect, every alternative in an EIS that would permit a Pebble mine will rest upon such mineral classifications and the methods ADNR used in adopting land use classifications, guidelines and statements of intent.

NEPA regulations provide that an EIS must analyze and address any applicable state land use plan.<sup>21</sup> This requirement, in effect, is likely to put federal agencies in a difficult position of explaining, in public and on the record, why they would evaluate federal permit applications to develop state land, including wetlands, where the State's land classifications, guidelines and statements of intent rest upon (1) using primarily marine criteria to determine whether Pebble is habitat, (2) excluding salmon in non-navigable waters such as Upper Talarik Creek, (3) excluding moose and caribou, (4) having no land use classification category for subsistence hunting and fishing where there is one for sport hunting and fishing, and (5) then defining recreation as excluding sport hunting and fishing. Regardless of whether such methods are lawful or not (and we believe the present ones are *not*), to ignore them would be facially contrary to 40 CFR § 1506.2(d), and would beg the question of what the classifications, guidelines and statements of intent should be applicable, in the absence of the 2005 BBAP and its methods. No one can answer that question.

Because no one can do so, we doubt that federal agencies can engage in legally required, *reasoned* decision-making necessary to approve federal permits so long as the 2005 BBAP is in place.<sup>22</sup> This leaves little room for any decision other than to commence a 404(c) *before*, and not *after*, PLP submits its permit applications, and *before* an EIS process commences. To do otherwise will compel EPA, the Corps and other agencies, in the context of NEPA and an EIS

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<sup>20</sup> In *Nondalton Tribal Council, et al., v. ADNR.*, 3AN-09-46 CI (3<sup>rd</sup> Jud. Dist., Ak.), these six tribes, AIFMA and Trout Unlimited, Inc. allege that ADNR's 2005 BBAP uses many unlawful methods to classify state land, and establish guidelines and management intent, including where Pebble and its facilities might be located. The litigation is undecided. See also, enclosed letter to Rep. Edgmon, and briefing paper (Pt. I) regarding 2005 BBAP. With respect to ADNR's lack of a subsistence category, ADNR claims that its habitat classifications accommodate subsistence, even though the 2005 BBAP reduces the upland acreage classified or co-classified as habitat by 90 percent, from 12 million acres to 768,000 acres, when compared to the former 1984 BBAP.

<sup>21</sup> 40 CFR § 1506.2(d) provides that to integrate an EIS into state planning processes, an EIS shall discuss any inconsistency of a proposed action with any approved state land use plan; and where inconsistency exists, the EIS should describe the extent to which the federal agency would reconcile its proposed action with the plan. In other words, an EIS on any potential Pebble mine will have to consider and analyze the applicable state land use plan.

<sup>22</sup> The 2005 BBAP appears fatal, from a legal standpoint, as a basis for an EIS that would support issuing permits for Pebble. See Briefing Paper, Pt. II, attached to letter to Rep. Edgmon.

process, either to defend the State's methods used in the 2005 BBAP (which would be untenable), or to ignore them, which would be contrary to 40 CFR § 1506.2(d).

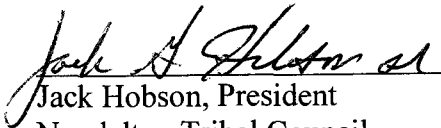
### CONCLUSION

For three reasons, this situation seems straightforward. First, the importance of the Kvichak and Nushagak river drainages and the magnitude of the issues raised by a potential Pebble mine warrant an EPA decision now, to commence a 404(c) public process. Second, all of the concerns raised to date, coupled with the recent decision of the Pebble Limited Partnership to terminate its Technical Working Groups, justify commencing a 404(c) process at this time. Third, the infirmities of ADNR's 2005 Bristol Bay Area Plan provide additional reason to commence a 404(c) process at this time. These infirmities leave little room for any decision other than to do so *before*, and not *after*, PLP submits its permit applications, and *before* an EIS process commences, because during an EIS process no governmental agency could lawfully defend or ignore the 2005 Bristol Bay Area Plan.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you. We hope to work in a public process under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Sincerely yours,

Date: 5/2/2010

  
Jack Hobson, President  
Nondalton Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 49  
Nondalton, Alaska 99640

Enclosures (2)

process, either to defend the State's methods used in the 2005 BBAP (which would be untenable), or to ignore them, which would be contrary to 40 CFR § 1506.2(d).

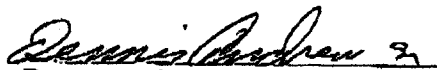
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Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you. We hope to work in a public process under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Sincerely yours.

Date: 5/04/10

  
Dennis Andrew, President  
New Stuyahok Traditional Council  
P.O. Box 49  
New Stuyahok, Alaska 99636

Enclosures (2)



process, either to defend the State's methods used in the 2005 BBAP (which would be untenable), or to ignore them, which would be contrary to 40 CFR § 1506.2(d).

### CONCLUSION

For three reasons, this situation seems straightforward. First, the importance of the Kvichak and Nushagak river drainages and the magnitude of the issues raised by a potential Pebble mine warrant an EPA decision now, to commence a 404(c) public process. Second, all of the concerns raised to date, coupled with the recent decision of the Pebble Limited Partnership to terminate its Technical Working Groups, justify commencing a 404(c) process at this time. Third, the infirmities of ADNR's 2005 Bristol Bay Area Plan provide additional reason to commence a 404(c) process at this time. These infirmities leave little room for any decision other than to do so *before*, and not *after*, PLP submits its permit applications, and *before* an EIS process commences, because during an EIS process no governmental agency could lawfully defend or ignore the 2005 Bristol Bay Area Plan.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you. We hope to work in a public process under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Sincerely yours,

Date: 5-10-10

for Angeline Chukwak

Sergie Chukwak, President  
Levelock Village Council  
P.O. Box 70  
Levelock, Alaska 99625

Vice  
President

Enclosures (2)

process, either to defend the State's methods used in the 2005 BBAP (which would be untenable), or to ignore them, which would be contrary to 40 CFR § 1506.2(d).


### CONCLUSION

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you. We hope to work in a public process under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Sincerely yours,

Date: 5/11/10

  
Iuli Akelkok, President  
Ekwok Village Council  
P.O. Box 70  
Ekwok, Alaska 99580

Enclosures (2)

process, either to defend the State's methods used in the 2005 BBAP (which would be untenable), or to ignore them, which would be contrary to 40 CFR § 1506.2(d).

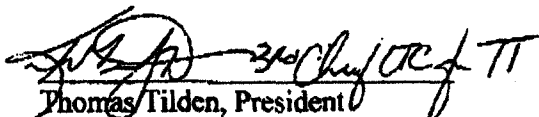
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Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you. We hope to work in a public process under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Sincerely yours,

Date: 5/12/2010

  
Thomas Tilden, President  
Curlyung Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 216  
531 D Street  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

Enclosures (2)

process, either to defend the State's methods used in the 2005 BBAP (which would be untenable), or to ignore them, which would be contrary to 40 CFR § 1506.2(d).

### CONCLUSION

For three reasons, this situation seems straightforward. First, the importance of the Kvichak and Nushagak river drainages and the magnitude of the issues raised by a potential Pebble mine warrant an EPA decision now, to commence a 404(c) public process. Second, all of the concerns raised to date, coupled with the recent decision of the Pebble Limited Partnership to terminate its Technical Working Groups, justify commencing a 404(c) process at this time. Third, the infirmities of ADNR's 2005 Bristol Bay Area Plan provide additional reason to commence a 404(c) process at this time. These infirmities leave little room for any decision other than to do so *before*, and not *after*, PLP submits its permit applications, and *before* an EIS process commences, because during an EIS process no governmental agency could lawfully defend or ignore the 2005 Bristol Bay Area Plan.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you. We hope to work in a public process under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Sincerely yours,

Date: 5-13-2010

Herman F. Nelson, Sr.  
Herman Nelson, Sr., President  
Koliganek Village Council  
P.O. Box 5057  
Koliganek, Alaska 99576

Enclosures (2)



process, either to defend the State's methods used in the 2005 BBAP (which would be untenable), or to ignore them, which would be contrary to 40 CFR § 1506.2(d).

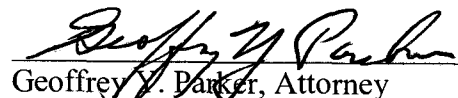
### CONCLUSION

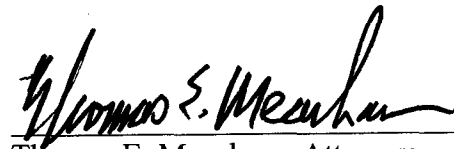
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Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you. We hope to work in a public process under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Sincerely yours,

Dated: 5-20-10

  
Geoffrey V. Parker, Attorney  
634 K Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 222-6859  
[gparker@alaska.net](mailto:gparker@alaska.net)  
Co-Counsel to Signatory Tribes

  
Thomas E. Meacham, Attorney  
9500 Prospect Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-5924  
(907) 346-1077  
[tmeacham@gci.net](mailto:tmeacham@gci.net)  
Co-Counsel to Signatory Tribes

Enclosures (2)

**EKUK VILLAGE COUNCIL**

PO Box 530 / 300 Main St.  
Dillingham, AK 99576  
Ph: (907) 842-3842 Fax: (907) 842-3843  
In state 1-866-842-3842  
[ekuktrib@starband.net](mailto:ekuktrib@starband.net)

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December 17, 2010

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg.  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dennis J. McLerran, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Regional Administrator's Office, RA-140  
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Clean Water Act 404(c) process to prohibit certain lands from use as a disposal site  
For dredged or fill material

Dear Ms. Lisa Jackson and Mr. Dennis McLaren:

The Native Village of Ekuk, a federally recognized tribe, DBA Ekuk Village Council, implore the Environmental Protection Agencies' involvement in ensuring that the water of Bristol Bay that sustain our people and our villages' vitality, stay intact and productive.

The Village of Ekuk supports the request that has been made by six other federally recognized Bristol Bay tribes, to the EPA, to initiate a public process under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act. Ekuk Village Council joins in the request, asking the EPA to work with our communities to craft a 404 (c ) determination that will protect the waters, wetland, fish, wildlife, fisheries, subsistence and public uses in the Nushagak and Kvichak drainages and Bristol Bay of Southwest Alaska from metallic sulfide mining, including the potential Pebble mine.

For those of us living directly downstream from a massive sulfide ore deposit, the need for protection of our existing resources, which are sustainable, irreplaceable, and essential for our lives, has never been more urgent.

Sincerely,



Robert Heyano  
President

COPY

December 22, 2010

Administrator Lisa P. Jackson  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

The Twin Hills Village Council respectfully requests that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) immediately initiate a section 404(c) process pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1344(c) to prohibit specification of those waters of the United States associated with the development of the Pebble Mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay as disposal sites for dredged or fill material.

We are a federally recognized tribe in Alaska with the best interest of the people at the heart of our organization. We write today to ask you to use all the tools at your disposal to protect a sport fishing and hunting destination that is unrivaled in America and perhaps the world, for this and future generations of sportsmen and women.

The vast Bristol Bay watershed in southwestern Alaska is one of the most wild and productive ecosystems in Alaska. It supports a robust tourism and recreation industry which is second only to commercial fishing in regional economic importance. Bristol Bay contains the world's greatest sockeye salmon fishery and the region's lakes and rivers support trophy-class rainbow trout and a vigorous sport fishing industry that attracts anglers from around the world. More than 70 sport fishing lodges and hundreds of sport fishing guides operate in Bristol Bay and the adjacent coast of Cook Inlet. Sport-fishing contributes \$166 million to the regional economy each year and as many as 1200 jobs. In addition, the Bristol Bay watershed's abundant caribou, moose, bear, and other wildlife support a multi-million dollar sport hunting and wildlife viewing industry. Despite the remote nature of the region and the costs associated with traveling to it, on a yearly basis up to 65,000 visitors come to Bristol Bay for recreational opportunities to fish, hunt, and view wildlife.

The proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska poses numerous significant and potentially long-lasting threats to the region. The Pebble deposit is a vast deposit of copper, gold and molybdenum located beneath the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak Rivers in Bristol Bay, Alaska. If built, the Pebble mine would be one of the largest in the world and poses a risk of irreparable harm to the unique fish and wildlife populations that thrive in Bristol Bay. The



COPY

proposed mine developers, a consortium of British and Canadian companies called the Pebble Limited Partnership (PLP), have not released final mine plans, but based on descriptions submitted with their 2006 water rights application and current PLP mineral deposit estimates, the proposed Pebble mine complex would cover some 54.5 square miles. Pebble could produce as much as 10 billion tons of mine waste including sulfuric acid, heavy metals and possibly cyanide that will have to be treated in perpetuity. Up to 60 miles of fish bearing streams and rivers could be dewatered. Any release of this waste into surface or groundwater has the potential to damage Bristol Bay's salmon and rainbow trout populations as well as the people who depend on them.

The EPA has the authority and an unprecedented opportunity to protect the fish, wildlife and people of Bristol Bay from large scale industrial mining. By exercising its Clean Water Act Section 404(c) authority the EPA will safeguard this unique and valuable habitat and the health of local people. The Twin Hills Village Council joins the majority of region's residents opposing Pebble mine and strongly encourages the EPA to immediately initiate 404c.

Sincerely,

Name: John W. Begay  
Title: President

Twin Hills Village Council

PO Box TWA

Twin Hills, AK 99576-8996

Cc: Senator Mark Begich, United States Senate

Senator Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate

Dennis J. McLerran, US EPA Region 10, Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Loulare A. Moore's Statement





# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172  
(907) 586-2820  
(907) 463-2545 Fax  
E-Mail: [ufa@ufa-fish.org](mailto:ufa@ufa-fish.org)  
[www.ufa-fish.org](http://www.ufa-fish.org)

October 12, 2010

Lisa Jackson, Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is a trade association comprised of 38 Alaska commercial fishing organizations that collectively represent the interests of commercial fishermen throughout the state. UFA has a keen interest in maintaining environmental quality that allows for sustainable harvest of Alaska's fishery resources. While any planned development that potentially affects water quality and aquatic resources receives UFA's attention, the risks associated with large scale mining developments such as the Pebble Mine prospect in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed are of particular concern.

Recognizing that the Bristol Bay region's salmon typically account for more than a quarter of the state's ex-vessel salmon value and provides an economic foundation for fishermen, tenders, processing, support businesses, and communities, it is critically important for the commercial fishing industry to be concerned about industrial development that may disrupt or degrade the area's fishing economy. While the operational plans for the Pebble Mine are not yet fully revealed the scope of likely future mining operations, construction and support activities are large and complex enough so that negative impacts to the Bristol Bay salmon fishery are unlikely to be avoided. Consequently, UFA opposes development of the Pebble Mine.

Since the Clean Water Act is our nation's primary law to prevent the pollution of waterways in the United States, UFA believes that it is appropriate for the EPA to utilize their authority under section 404c of the Clean Water Act to regulate the placement of dredge or fill materials that would affect water quality in the Bristol Bay Watershed, and to carefully tailor restrictions on the discharge of dredge or fill materials in U.S. waters within the Bristol Bay watershed. Thus, we urge the EPA to proactively initiate the 404c process on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel  
Executive Director

Cc: Bob Abbey, Director Bureau of Land Management  
John Jarvis, Director National Park Service

# **Bristol Bay**

## ***Regional Seafood Development Assoc.***

1120 Huffman Road • Anchorage, AK • 99515

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June 20, 2010

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dennis J. McLerran, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Regional Administrator's Office, RA-140  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Request that EPA initiate proceedings under 404(c) of the Clean Water Act as it pertains to discharges from proposed mining activities in the Bristol Bay area of Alaska.

The Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association is a non-profit association comprised of all 1,865 Bristol Bay driftnet fishermen. These fishermen contribute 1% of their revenues to support the purposes of the Association as defined in Alaska state law. These purposes include adding to fishing infrastructure, improving quality, research and marketing. We currently spend over \$1 million annually on projects in each of these program areas.

The Bristol Bay salmon stocks are healthy. This is primarily due to a healthy environment and to management practices that assure ongoing abundance. Total wholesale value for salmon produced in 2008 (most recent data) was over \$300 million. On average, more than half of the world's sockeye spawn and are harvested in the waters of Bristol Bay. The commercial fishery of Bristol Bay is now in its 127<sup>th</sup> continuous year and is currently estimated to provide roughly 75% of the area's employment.

FROM :

FAX NO. :

May. 12 2010 05:48PM P1

**Alaska Independent Fishermen's  
Marketing Association**  
P.O. Box 60131  
Seattle, WA 98160  
Phone/Fax (206) 542-3930



May 13, 2010

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dennis J. McLerran, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Regional Administrator's Office, RA-140  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101

**Re: Endorsement of Tribes' request that EPA initiate a public process under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act, regarding discharges related to potential metallic sulfide mining in the Kvichak and Nushagak drainages of Southwest Alaska.**

Dear Ms. Jackson and Mr. McLerran:

AIFMA Cooperative (Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association) is a member-based cooperative of commercial fishers, organized under the laws of the State of Alaska. AIFMA's members fish for salmon in Bristol Bay in Southwest Alaska. AIFMA has long opposed development of a potential Pebble Mine. If developed, it would mine a large metallic sulfide deposit located at the divide between Upper Talarik Creek in the Kvichak River drainage and the North and South Forks of the Koktuli River drainages. The Kvichak River drainage historically produces more sockeye salmon than any other river in the world, and the Nushagak River drainage produces the most salmon of the other species caught in the commercial fisheries of Bristol Bay. A Pebble Mine threatens these commercial fisheries.

AIFMA is working with several federally-recognized tribes in the Kvichak and Nushagak drainages on matters related to a potential Pebble Mine. AIFMA's board of directors received and endorsed draft correspondence by the Tribes that requests EPA to initiate a public process under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act, to protect waters, wetlands, fish, wildlife, and subsistence and recreational uses in the Kvichak and Nushagak drainages and the commercial fisheries in Bristol Bay from direct, cumulative and secondary effects of discharges associated with metallic sulfide mining, including a potential Pebble Mine. We understand that the Tribes' letter has now been sent to EPA.

This letter confirms AIFMA's endorsement of the Tribes' letter and request for a 404(c) public process. AIFMA will do all it can to assist such a process. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

  
David Harsila  
President



2207 Spenard Road, Suite 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

December 9, 2010

The Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Determination in Bristol Bay

Dear Administrator Jackson:

The Alaska Wilderness Recreation & Tourism Association (AWRTA) respectfully requests that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) immediately initiate a section 404(c) process pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1344(c) to prohibit specification of those waters of the United States associated with the development of the Pebble Mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay as disposal sites for dredged or fill material.

AWRTA is a member-led trade association that represents tourism businesses, individuals, and organizations in Alaska. AWRTA advocates for the sustainability of Alaska's natural and cultural resources, responsible tourism, and tourism planning for communities. Member businesses and partners strive to work with communities to protect and enhance quality of life, provide good jobs and business opportunities, and create strong incentives for protecting Alaska's wildlife, wilderness, and special places. AWRTA has a keen interest in maintaining the environmental quality upon which its business members depend and is extremely concerned that the proposed Pebble Mine will harm Bristol Bay's exceptional recreational opportunities and the numerous small tourism companies that depend on the region's healthy lands, waters, and wildlife.

The vast Bristol Bay watershed in southwestern Alaska is one of the most pristine and scenic ecosystems in Alaska. It supports a robust tourism and recreation industry which is second only to commercial fishing in regional importance. Bristol Bay contains the world's greatest sockeye salmon fishery and the region's lakes and rivers support trophy-class rainbow trout and a vigorous sport fishing industry that attracts anglers from around the world. More than 70 sport fishing lodges and hundreds of sport fishing guides operate in Bristol Bay and the adjacent coast of Cook Inlet. Sport fishing contributes \$166 million to the regional economy each year. In addition, the Bristol Bay



February 24, 2011

Lisa Jackson, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Cc: Ken Salazar, Secretary, Department of Interior  
Gary Locke, Secretary, Department of Commerce  
Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality  
Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Bob Abbey, Director, Bureau of Land Management  
John Jarvis, Director, National Park Service  
Rowan Gould, Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works  
Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator from Alaska  
Mark Begich, U.S. Senator from Alaska

Dear Administrator Jackson,

We, the undersigned hunting and angling organizations and businesses representing millions of sportsmen, outdoor recreation groups and related businesses, thank you and the EPA for taking the first step in protecting Bristol Bay from the dangers of the proposed Pebble Mine, by starting a scientific assessment of the region's watershed. We look forward to working with the EPA and other decision makers during this public process to determine the fate of Bristol Bay, Alaska.

Our 363 sporting conservation groups, businesses and trade associations also thank you for visiting the Bristol Bay region last year. Your effort to meet with the region's local residents is greatly appreciated, as the world's greatest wild sockeye salmon fishery is facing unprecedented threats from proposed development of a massive mining district. We write today to ask you to use all the tools at your disposal to protect a sport fishing and hunting destination that is unrivaled in America and perhaps the world, for this and future generations of sportsmen and women.

The proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay poses numerous significant and potentially long-lasting threats to one of the world's foremost sport fishing and hunting regions. Specifically, fish habitat (including spawning and breeding grounds), wildlife habitat and recreational areas are all threatened by several hard rock mining proposals - most notably, the Pebble Mine. The potential impact from this type of activity could be severe. It is estimated that the Pebble Mine would produce between 2.5 and 10 billion tons of waste containing elements, such as copper and other heavy metals, that would threaten several fishery areas including spawning and breeding grounds for world-renowned populations of salmon.

If this project moves forward, these toxins would have to be contained and potentially treated in perpetuity - in an area of high seismic activity, which increases the risks tremendously. Because the Pebble property straddles the Kvichak and Nushagak river drainages - two of the most productive salmon systems on the planet - any release of this waste into the surface or groundwater has the

EPA Letter from Sport Fishing and Hunting Interests on Bristol Bay Alaska (Nov. 2010)

potential to severely harm Bristol Bay's salmon and the livelihoods of the sport fishing and hunting business owners, all of whom depend on them for their economic support.

Sport fishing in Bristol Bay generates \$60 million annually; anglers looking for "once in a lifetime" experiences on rivers such as the Nushagak, Mulchatna, Koktuli and Kvichak support more than 800 full- and part-time jobs. Mining activity and increased development associated with mining will detrimentally impact these areas by direct impacts to fish and habitat. Development will also negatively impact opportunities for sport fishing and hunting operations in the area by diminishing the quality of the experience. Despite the remote nature of the region and the costs associated with traveling to it, on a yearly basis up to 65,000 visitors come to Bristol Bay for recreational opportunities to fish, hunt, and view wildlife.

Secretary Salazar and the Obama administration recognized that oil and gas development in this area is simply not worth the risk, the same is true for mining operations in the headwaters of Bristol Bay. The fish and wildlife values in the region, its size and setting, and the national significance of its resources are, in the words of Secretary Salazar and President Obama, "a national treasure that we must protect." The risk to this national treasure is too great and the resource too unique and irreplaceable to allow the Pebble Project to continue forward.

While we thank you for planning an assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed to better understand how future large-scale development projects may affect Bristol Bay, it's not enough. The EPA has the authority under the Clean Water Act to invoke Section 404(c), which would give Bristol Bay the protection it needs from mining and other large-scale developments.

**The undersigned organizations and businesses urge EPA to proactively fulfill its mission to protect the environment and human health in Bristol Bay, AK by using its authority under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) to withdraw waters and wetlands in the headwaters of the Bristol Bay watershed from future specification as disposal sites for dredge and fill activity associated with mining operations.** The EPA has an opportunity now to guarantee a future for Bristol Bay that will generate economic opportunities while also conserving sporting traditions for generations to come.

We look forward to working with the EPA and all federal agencies with an interest and role in the future of Bristol Bay's tremendously productive lands and waters.

Sincerely,

**National Organizations (15)**

American Fly Fishing Trade Association  
Randi Swisher  
President  
Westminster, CO

American Sportfishing Association  
Gordon Robertson  
Vice President  
Alexandria, VA

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
Jim Akenson  
Executive Director  
Joseph, OR

Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance  
Tim Mauck  
Co-Director  
Denver, CO

Campfire Club of America  
Leonard J. Vallender  
Conservation Chair  
Chappaqua, NY

Dallas Safari Club  
Ben Carter  
Executive Director  
Dallas, TX

Delta Waterfowl Foundation  
John L. Devney  
Senior Vice President  
Bismarck, ND

Federation of Fly Fishers  
Philip Greenlee  
President / Chairman of the Board  
Livingston, MT

Izaak Walton League of America  
Roger Sears  
Executive Board Chair  
Poolesville, MD

National Wildlife Federation  
Jim Adams  
Regional Executive Director – Pacific Region  
Anchorage, AK

North American Fishing Club  
Steve Pennaz  
Executive Director  
Minnetonka, MN

North American Hunting Club  
Bill Miller  
Executive Director  
Minnetonka, MN

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Tom Franklin  
Director of Policy and Government Relations  
Washington, DC

Trout Unlimited  
Chris Wood  
President / Chief Executive Officer  
Arlington, VA

Wildlife Forever  
Douglas Grann  
President / Chief Executive Officer  
Minneapolis, MN

### **Alaska (75)**

3 Rivers Fly & Tackle  
Steve Runyan  
Manager  
Wasilla, AK

Alagnak Lodge  
Michael Santelli  
Guide  
King Salmon, AK

Alaska Alpine Adventures  
Dan Oberlatz  
Owner/Operator  
Anchorage, AK

Alaska Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Mark Richards  
Co-Chair  
Eastern Interior (Bush), AK

Alaska Bear Guides  
Scott Newman  
President  
Petersburg, AK

Alaska Fly Anglers, Inc.  
John Hohl  
Owner  
Soldotna, AK

Alaska Fly Fish  
Jason Williams  
Owner  
Anchorage, AK

Alaska Fly Fishing Goods  
Brad Elfers  
Owner  
Juneau, AK  
Alaska Glacier Guides, Inc,  
Alisha Rosenbruch-Decker  
President  
Gustavus, AK

Alaska King Salmon Adventures  
Scott Weedman  
Owner  
Dillingham, AK

Alaska Rainbow Adventures  
Paul Hansen  
Owner  
Wasilla, AK

Alaska Rainbow Lodge  
Ron and Sharon Hayes  
Owners/Operators  
King Salmon, AK

Alaska Salmon Camp, Inc.  
Kent Anderson  
President  
Dillingham, AK

Alaska Sportsman's Bear Trail Lodge  
Nanci Morris-Lyon  
Managing Partner  
King Salmon, AK

Alaska Trophy Fishing Safaris  
John & Melissa Carlin  
Owners / Operators  
Homer, AK

Alaska West  
Andrew Bennett  
President  
Quinhagak, AK

Alaska Wilderness Trips, Inc.  
Clark Whitney, Sr.  
Owner  
Soldotna, AK

Alaska's Boardwalk Lodge  
Brad Steuart  
Owner  
Thorne Bay, AK

Alaska's Wild River Lodge  
Seth Kroenke  
Owner / Operator  
Port Alsworth, AK

Alaskan Leader Tours  
Kimberly Riedel  
President  
Kodiak, AK

Alaskan Wilderness Outfitting Company  
Tom & Katie Prijatel  
Owners  
Cordova, AK

Arctic Wild, LLC  
Bill Mohrwinkel  
Owner  
Fairbanks, AK

Baranof Wilderness Lodge  
Mike Trotter  
Owner / Operator  
Sitka, AK

Beyond Boundaries Expeditions  
Mike Trotter  
Owner / Operator  
Sitka, AK



Blue Fly Bed & Breakfast and Guide Service  
Patricia Edel  
Owner/Operator  
King Salmon, AK

Blue Mountain Lodge  
Tracy & Linda Vrem  
Owners/Operators  
Becharof Lake, AK

Blueberry Island Lodge  
George Riddle  
Owner / Operator  
Igiugig, AK

Branch River Air Service, Inc.  
George V. Hartley  
President  
King Salmon, AK

Brightwater Alaska, Inc.  
Chuck Ash  
President  
Anchorage, AK

Bristol Bay Adventures  
Michael Addiego  
Owner  
Dillingham, AK

Bristol Bay Lodge  
Steve Laurent  
General Manager  
Dillingham, AK

Cape Ommaney Lodge  
James Boyce  
Owner / Master Guide  
Port Alexander, AK

Chinook Tours  
Felix Schneider  
Owner  
Anchorage, AK

Classic Casting Adventures  
Tad Kisaka  
Owner / Guide  
Sitka, AK

Copper River Lodge  
Pat Vermillion  
Owner  
Iliamna, AK

Crystal Creek Lodge  
Dan Michels  
Owner  
King Salmon, AK

Denali Fly Fishing Guides, LLC  
Rick McMahan  
Owner  
Cantwell, AK

Dierick's Tsiu River Lodge  
Greg Dierick  
Owner  
Yakutat, AK

EPIC Angling & Adventure, LLC  
Rus Schwausch  
Owner  
King Salmon, AK

Fishing Bear Lodge  
Justin Johns  
Owner  
Dillingham, AK

Glacier Guides, Inc.  
Jimmie C. Rosenbruch  
Owner / Master Guide  
Gustavus, AK

Great Alaska Adventure Vacations  
Kent John  
President  
Sterling, AK

Hitaluga Guide Service, LLC  
Cynthia Oliver  
Co-Owner  
Anchorage, AK

Icy Bay Lodge  
Nick Coe  
Vice President/Manager  
Yakutat, AK

Igiugig Lodge, LLC  
Brad Waitman  
Owner / Operator  
Igiugig, AK

Jake's Nushagak Salmon Camp  
Eli Huffman  
Owner / Manager  
Dillingham, AK

Katmai Air, LLC  
Raymond F. & Mariann Peterson  
Owners  
Kulik Lodge/Katmai Park, AK

Katmai Guide Service  
Joe Klutsch  
Owner / Master Guide  
King Salmon, AK

Katmailand, Inc.  
Raymond F. Peterson  
President  
Kulik Lodge/Katmai Park, AK

Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition  
Dwight Kramer  
Chairman  
Kenai, AK

Kodiak Sportsman's Lodge  
Gary Sampson  
Owner  
Old Harbor, AK

Kvichak Anglers  
Jared Paul Nelson  
Owner  
Igiugig, AK

Mission Creek Lodge, LLC  
Dale DePriest  
Owner  
Aleknagik, AK

Mountain View Sports Center  
John Staser  
President  
Anchorage, AK

Muskeg Excursions  
Johnnie Laird  
Owner/Guide  
Ketchikan, AK

No See Um Lodge, Inc.  
John Holman  
President  
King Salmon, AK

Ocean Point Alaska Adventures  
Keegan McCarthy  
Owner/Operator  
Douglas, AK

Ouzel Expeditions, Inc.  
Sharon Allred  
Co-Owner  
Girdwood, AK

Painter Creek Lodge  
Jon Kent  
President  
Anchorage, AK

Quartz Creek Lodge  
Dave & Pam Pingree  
Owners/Operators  
Kodiak, AK

Rapids Camp Lodge  
Amy Herrig  
Owner / Operator  
King Salmon, AK

Rainbow Bend Lodges  
Tom & Tammy Baumgartner  
Owners  
King Salmon, AK

Rainbow River Lodge  
Chad Hewitt  
Managing Partner  
Iliamna, AK

Reel Wilderness Adventures, Inc.  
David Taylor  
President  
Dillingham, AK

River King Outfitters  
Jon Boyd  
Owner  
Nushagak River, AK

River Wrangellers  
Jennifer & Michael Harpe  
Owners  
Copper Center, AK

Royal Coachman Lodge  
Pat Vermillion  
President  
Dillingham, AK

Royal Wolf Lodge  
Chris & Linda Branham  
Owners / Operators  
Anchorage, AK

Saltery Lodge  
Joe Paul  
Manager/Captain  
Naha Bay, AK

Sea Hawk Air  
Rolan Ruoss  
Owner  
Kodiak, AK

Talaheim Lodge  
Mark Miller  
Owner  
Anchorage, AK

The Alaska Sportsman's Lodge  
Todd Calitri  
General Manager  
Igiugig, AK

Togiak River Outfitters, LLC  
Larry Lund  
Owner  
Togiak, AK

Westwind Guide Service/AK Big Game Hunting  
Anthony B. Lee  
Owner  
Wasilla, AK

Women's Fly Fishing  
Cecelia "Pudge" Kleinkauf  
Owner  
Anchorage, AK

#### **Arizona (5)**

Arizona Flycasters Club  
Gary Stinson  
Conservation Chair  
Phoenix, AZ

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife  
Brian Pinney  
AZSFW - WCC Foundation Chair  
Phoenix, AZ

Arizona Wildlife Federation  
Tom Mackin  
President  
Flagstaff, AZ

Eastern Rocky Mtn Council (Fed. of Fly Fishers)  
Richard J. Brown  
Vice President – Conservation  
Flagstaff

White Mountain Lakes Foundation  
John Rohmer  
President  
Phoenix, AZ

**Arkansas (3)**

Southern Council (Federation of Fly Fishers)  
Paul Goodwin  
Vice President – Conservation  
Mountain Home, AR

White River Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Mark Romero  
Conservation Committee  
Lakeview, AR

Women's Fly Fishing of Japan  
Misako Ishimura  
Conservation Committee  
Lakeview, AR

**California (30)**

Abel Automatics, Inc.  
Jeff Patterson  
Director of Sales  
Camarillo, CA

Bob Marriott's Flyfishing Store  
Stacia Siroonian  
Vice President  
Fullerton, CA

California Division (Izaak Walton League of America)  
Peter Hillebrecht  
President  
Orange, CA

California School of Flyfishing  
Ralph & Lisa Cutter  
Owners  
Nevada City, CA

Central Coast Fly Fishing  
Geoff Malloway  
Owner  
Carmel, CA

Don Coffey Company  
Mike Perusse  
Sales  
San Clemente, CA

Fly Fishers of Davis  
Lowell Ashbaugh  
Conservation Chair  
Davis, CA

Flycasters of San Jose, Inc.  
Chuck Hammerstad  
Conservation Co-Chair  
San Jose, CA

Galvan Fly Reels, Inc.  
Bonifacio Galvan  
President  
Sonora, CA

Golden West Women Flyfishers  
Cindy Charles  
Conservation Chair  
San Francisco, CA

Hatch Outdoors, Inc.  
John Torok  
President / CEO  
Vista, CA

Hobie Cat Company  
Jim Czarnowski  
Director of Engineering  
Oceanside, CA



Jeff Bright Steelhead Flyfishing Expeditions  
Jeff Bright  
Owner  
San Francisco, CA

Marmot Mountain, LLC  
Mark Martin  
President  
Santa Rosa, CA

Mount Tamalpais Fly Fishers  
Kim Colby  
Vice President  
Marin County, CA

Nevada City Anglers  
Tony Dumont  
Owner  
Nevada City, CA

Northern California Council (Fed. of Fly Fishers)  
Anne-Marie Bakker  
President  
Sonoma, CA

Okuma Fishing Tackle  
Douglas Lasko  
President  
Ontario, CA

Outdoor Pro Shop, Inc.  
Ken Elie  
President  
Cotati, CA

Patagonia, Inc.  
Casey Sheahan  
President / CEO  
Ventura, CA

Peninsula Fly Fishers  
Mike Pineli  
Bulletin Editor  
Pacifica, CA

Pit River Company  
Brian McDonald & Joseph Nowak  
Managing Members  
Petaluma, CA

Sac-Sierra Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Kevin Mather  
President  
Sacramento, CA

Santa Barbara Flyfishers  
Lew Riffle  
President  
Santa Barbara, CA

Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen  
Sam Bishop  
President  
Santa Cruz, CA

Santa Lucia Fly Fishers  
Mike Kohle  
Conservation Chair  
San Luis Obispo, CA

The Fly Shop, Inc.  
Pat Pendergast  
Director of International Travel  
Redding, CA

The Trout Spot  
Richard Desrosiers  
Owner  
Santa Clara, CA

The Trout Underground  
Tom Chandler  
Publisher  
Mount Shasta, CA

Wilderness Fly Fishers  
Clay Dodder  
Conservation Committee  
Santa Monica, CA

**Colorado (10)**

Angling Trade Magazine  
Kirk Deeter  
Editor-In-Chief  
Pine, CO

CJR Flyfishing  
Clint J. Rossell  
Owner / Operator  
Idaho Springs, CO

Collegiate Peaks Anglers  
Steve Craig  
President  
Salida, CO

Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
John Gale  
Co-Chair  
Boulder, CO

Fishpond, Inc.  
John Land le Coq  
Co-Founder  
Dillon, CO

Fly Fishing Outfitters  
John Packer  
Owner  
Avon, CO

Grand Valley Anglers Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
David Trimm  
President  
Grand Junction, CO

Scott Fly Rod Company  
Jim Bartschi  
President  
Montrose, CO

The Angling Book Store  
Ben Furimski  
Owner  
Crested Butte, CO

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Umpqua Feather Merchants  
Brent Bauer  
Operations Manager  
Louisville, CO

**Connecticut (4)**

Compleat Angler  
Scott Bennett  
Owner  
Darien, CT

North Cove Outfitters, Inc.  
Brian Owens  
Manager  
Old Saybrook, CT

Nutmeg Guide Service  
Jeff Church  
Owner  
Southbury, CT

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc.  
Mike Fifer  
President / CEO  
Southport, CT

**Delaware (2)**

A Marblehead Flyfisher  
Terry Peach  
Owner  
Wilmington, DE

White Clay Outfitters  
Kenneth Prager  
Vice President  
Newark, DE

**District of Columbia (1)**

National Capital Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Andrew J. Spence  
President  
Washington, DC

**Florida (8)**

AVID Tackle  
Tim Johnson  
Partner / Co-Founder  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Florida Wildlife Federation  
Preston Robertson  
Vice President  
Tallahassee, FL

Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers  
Evan Jones  
President  
Sarasota, FL

Norm Zeigler's Fly Shop  
Norm Zeigler  
Owner  
Sanibel Island, FL

Sanibel Island Fly Fishers  
Norm Zeigler  
Board of Directors  
Sanibel Island, FL

Suncoast Fly Fishers  
Tom Gadacz  
President  
Saint Petersburg, FL

Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers (Fed. of Fly Fishers)  
Roger Maler  
President  
Hernando Beach, FL

Tibor Reel Corporation  
Marianne Papa  
Vice President  
Delray Beach, FL

**Georgia (1)**

Gray's Sporting Journal  
Mike Floyd  
Director of Sales  
Augusta, GA

**Idaho (13)**

Ballistic Spey Lines  
Lee Davison  
President  
Idaho Falls, ID

Carriboo Conservancy, Inc.  
Bud Smalley  
President  
Pocatello, ID

Down River Design Company  
David Page  
President  
Irwin, ID

Fluid Peak Films  
Lauren Schall & David Page  
Owners  
Swan Valley, ID

Jimmy's All Seasons Angler  
Jimmy Gabettas  
Owner  
Idaho Falls, ID

Kast Gear  
Colby Hackbarth  
Chief Executive Officer  
Idaho Falls, ID

Morning Star Lanyards  
Lynda MacButch  
Owner  
Pocatello, ID

RIO Products International  
Simon Gawesworth  
Marketing Manager  
Idaho Falls, ID

Sandpoint Outfitters  
Calvin Fuller  
Owner  
Sandpoint, ID

Smith Optics  
Ned Post  
President  
Ketchum, ID

Snake River Outfitters  
Lee Davison  
President  
Idaho Falls, ID

SunCloud  
Peter Crow  
General Manager  
Ketchum, ID

The Waterworks-Lamson  
Ryan Harrison  
President  
Ketchum, ID

#### **Illinois (2)**

Chicago Fly Fishing Outfitters  
Andy Kurkulis  
Owner  
Chicago, IL

Elliott Donnelley Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Grant Brown  
President  
Chicago, IL

#### **Indiana (1)**

FlyMasters of Indianapolis  
Jon Widboom  
Owner  
Indianapolis, IN

#### **Iowa (1)**

Iowa Wildlife Federation  
Joe Wilkinson  
President  
Solon, IA

#### **Kansas (2)**

Heart of America Flyfishers (Fed. of Fly Fishers)  
Kevin Carril  
Conservation Chair  
Overland Park, KS

Kansas Wildlife Federation  
Steven Sorensen  
Vice President – Conservation  
Wichita, KS

#### **Kentucky (1)**

Bluegrass Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Gary S. Rose  
President  
Lexington, KY

#### **Louisiana (2)**

Coldwater Committee (Fed. of Fly Fishers)  
Robert Tabbert  
Chairman  
Lafayette, LA

Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
Keith R. Saucier  
First Vice President  
Gonzales, LA

**Maine (3)**

Eldredge Brothers Fly Shop  
Jim Bernstein  
Shop Manager  
Cape Neddick, ME

L.L. Bean, Inc.  
Mac McKeever  
Senior Public Relations Representative  
Freeport, ME

Maine Sport Outfitters  
Paul McGurren  
Fly Shop Manager  
Rockport, ME

**Maryland (4)**

Lateral Line, Inc.  
Brandon White  
Founder  
Easton, MD

Mayfly Enterprises, Ltd.  
Jim Greene  
President / CEO  
Chevy Chase, MD

Mid-Atlantic Council (Federation of Fly Fishers)  
James Porter  
President  
Columbia, MD

Potomac Valley Fly Fishers  
John Brognard, Sr.  
President  
Middletown, MD

**Massachusetts (2)**

Central Mass Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Phillip Horowitz  
President  
Framingham, MA

Greater Boston Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
David Glater  
President  
Boston, MA

**Michigan (7)**

Castaway Films  
Grant Wiswell  
Owner  
Saline, MI

Dwight Lydell Chapter (Izaak Walton League of America)  
Robert Stegmier  
Conservation Chair  
Rockford, MI

Great Lakes Council (Federation of Fly Fishers)  
James Schramm  
President  
Pentwater, MI

Greenhighlander Flyfishing  
Bret Reiter  
Owner  
Linden, MI

Midwest Custom Fly Rods  
Steven W. Clark  
Owner  
Royal Oak, MI

OutsideHub.com  
Steve Dooley  
President  
Southfield, MI

USAontheFly.com  
Ken Van Every  
Owner  
Holt, MI



**Minnesota (9)**

Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop  
Michael Alwin  
Owner  
Lake Elmo, MN

Great Lakes Fly Shop  
John Fehnel  
Owner  
Duluth, MN

J.W. McCabe Chapter (Izaak Walton League of America)  
Brent Gurtek  
President  
Duluth, MN

Minnesota Division (Izaak Walton League of America)  
Curt Leitz  
President  
Saint Paul, MN

Sporting Life Adventure Travel  
Paul Hansen  
Vice President – International Operations  
Saint Michael, MN

The Fly Angler  
Scott Struif  
Manager  
Blaine, MN

W. Breckenridge Chapter (Izaak Walton League of America)  
Steven Schaust  
President  
Brooklyn Park, MN

White Fox Fur & Feather Company  
Jay DeLeon  
Owner  
Pemberton, MN

Whitefish Studio  
Bob & Lisa White  
Owners  
Marine on St. Croix, MN

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**Missouri (2)**

Ozark Fly Fishers, Inc.  
Wallis Warren  
Conservation Director  
Saint Louis, MO

Southwest Missouri Fly Fishers  
Paul Goodwin  
President  
Springfield, MO

**Mississippi (1)**

Fish Portraits, LLC  
Curt Redden  
Founder  
Hattiesburg, MS

**Montana (28)**

Big Sky Inflatables, LLC  
Richard Stuber  
Owner  
Stevensville, MT

Canvasfish.com  
Derek DeYoung  
Owner  
Livingston, MT

CastaFly Travel, LLC  
Robert Boyce  
Owner  
Bozeman, MT

Confluence Films  
Jim Klug  
Producer  
Bozeman, MT

DR. SLICK Co.  
Steve Fournier  
Owner  
Belgrade, MT

Fishing with Larry  
Guy Schoenborn  
Vice President  
Columbus, MT

Flathead Wildlife, Inc.  
Chuck Hunt  
President  
Kalispell, MT

Fly on the Wall Travels, LLC  
Tyson O'Connell  
President  
Missoula, MT

Four Rivers Fishing Company  
Greg Smith  
President  
Twin Bridges, MT

Gallatin River Lodge  
Keith Comiso  
General Manager  
Bozeman, MT

Hellgate Hunters and Anglers  
Land Tawney  
President  
Missoula, MT

Lakestream Outfitters  
Justin Lawrence  
Outfitting Manager  
Whitefish, MT

Madison-Gallatin Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Travis Morris  
President  
Bozeman, MT

Merco Products  
Lyle R. Graff  
President  
Nye, MT

Missouri River Flyfishers  
Sam Wike  
President  
Great Falls, MT

Montana Fly Fishing Connection, LLC  
Joe Sowerby  
Owner / Outfitter  
Missoula, MT

Mystery Ranch Backpacks  
Mark Seacat  
Marketing Director  
Bozeman, MT

Ro Drift Boats  
Robert Eddins  
President  
Bozeman, MT

Simms Fishing Products  
K.C. Walsh  
Owner / President  
Bozeman, MT

Steelhead Committee (Fed. of Fly Fishers)  
Will Atlas  
Co-Chair  
Livingston, MT

Stonefly Inn & Outfitters  
Dan Leavens  
Owner  
Twin Bridges, MT

Sweetwater Travel  
Pat Vermillion  
Owner  
Livingston, MT

The Missoulain Angler Fly Shop  
Russell Parks  
Owner  
Missoula, MT

The Trout Shop  
Jerry Lappier  
President  
Craig, MT

Triple-M-Outfitters  
Mark Faroni  
Owner / Outfitter  
Dixon, MT

Turneffe Flats Resort (Belize)  
Craig Hayes  
President  
Bozeman, MT

Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures  
Jim Klug  
Founder / Director of Operations  
Bozeman, MT

Yellowstone Angler  
James Anderson  
Co-Owner / Manager  
Livingston, MT

#### **Nebraska (2)**

HuntingLife.com  
Kevin Paulson  
Founder / CEO  
Lincoln, NE

Recycled Fish  
Teeg Stouffer  
Executive Director  
Nebraska City, NE

#### **Nevada (2)**

Hendrix Outdoors  
Mont G. Adams  
Partner  
Fallon, NV

Sagebrush Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Mike Caltagirone  
President  
Reno, NV

#### **New Hampshire (4)**

ASA / Eastern Fishing & Outdoor Exposition  
Jonathan Sauers  
Show Director  
Portsmouth, NH

Fly Fish America magazine  
Crispin Battles  
Editor & Art Director  
North Conway, NH

On Target magazine  
Crispin Battles  
Editor & Art Director  
North Conway, NH

Thompson / Center  
Craig Cushman  
Director of Marketing  
Rochester, NH

#### **New Jersey (1)**

FlyfishMagazine.com  
Lee Murdock  
Publisher  
Medford, NJ

#### **New Mexico (2)**

Land of Enchantment Guides  
Noah Parker  
Owner  
Velarde, NM

Taos Fly Shop  
Nick Streit  
Owner  
Taos, NM

**New York (6)**

Neversink River Guide Service  
Art Salomon  
Owner  
Forestburgh, NY

North Flats Guiding, LLC  
David Blinken  
Owner  
New York, NY

O.A. Mustad & Son (USA), Inc.  
Jeff Pierce  
Sales Manager – North America  
Auburn, NY

Royal Wulff Products  
Douglas Cummings  
President  
Livingston Manor, NY

Theodore Gordon Flyfishers  
Mark Romero  
Conservation Committee  
Roscoe, NY

Urban Angler, LLC  
Jonathan Fisher  
Managing Member  
New York, NY

**North Carolina (2)**

Nantahala River Lodge  
Annette Youmans  
Owner  
Topton, NC

The Green Drake  
Stewart Gordon  
Owner  
Winston Salem, NC

**North Dakota (1)**

Jason Mitchell Outdoors  
Jason Mitchell  
Owner / Guide  
Devils Lake, ND

**Ohio (3)**

Mohican Fly Fishers of Ohio  
Nick Contini  
Board of Directors  
Mansfield, OH

Ohio Council (Trout Unlimited)  
Tom Allen  
National Leadership Council Representative  
Lewis Center, OH

Ohio Division (Izaak Walton League of America)  
Raymond Zehler  
Executive Director  
Hamilton, OH

**Oregon (22)**

Bauer Premium Fly Reels, Inc.  
Jon & Barbara Bauer  
Owners  
Ashland, OR

Berkley Conservation Institute / Pure Fishing  
Jim Martin  
Conservation Director  
Mulino, OR

Beulah Fly Rods  
James Shaughnessy  
Owner  
Medford, OR

Catch Magazine  
Brian O'Keefe  
Owner  
Powell Butte, OR

Deschutes Angler Fly Shop  
Amy Hazel  
Owner / Guide  
Maupin, OR

Deschutes River Camp  
Matt Paluch  
Owner  
Madras, OR

ExpeditionMatch.com  
Adam Hughes  
Owner  
Bend, OR

ffp Compound Rods  
Phil Hager  
Owner  
Gresham, OR

Fish On! Fly & Tackle, LLC  
Michael Unruh  
President  
Milwaukie, OR

Fly & Field Outfitters  
Scott Cook  
Owner  
Bend, OR

Flywater Travel  
Ken Morrish  
Co-Owner  
Ashland, OR

Homewaters Fly Fishing  
James O. Brown  
Owner  
Eugene, OR

Jim Teeny, Inc.  
Jim Teeny  
President  
Gresham, OR

Koffler Boats, Inc.  
Bruce & Elaine Koffler  
Owners  
Eugene, OR

Lake in the Dunes  
Russell Scott  
Owner  
Summer Lake, OR

Loon Outdoors  
Alan Peterson  
President  
Ashland, OR

Mainstream Outdoors  
Bruce Berry  
Owner  
Oregon City, OR

Morrison's Rogue River Lodge  
Zac Kauffman  
Outdoor Operations Manager  
Merlin, OR

Northwest Angling Experience  
Chris Vertopolous  
Owner / Operator  
Tillamook, OR

Oregon Council (Trout Unlimited)  
Tom Wolf  
Chairman  
Hillsboro, OR

River City Fly Shop  
Don Nelson  
Owner  
Beaverton, OR

The Ashland Fly Shop  
Will Johnson  
Owner  
Ashland, OR



**Pennsylvania (8)**

2Bonthewater Guide Service  
Vincent Dick, Jr.  
Owner / Guide  
Oley, PA

Arrowhead Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Gerald Potocnak  
President  
Sarver, PA

Chestnut Ridge Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Scott Hoffman  
Treasurer  
Uniontown, PA

Frontiers Travel  
Stew Armstrong  
Senior Program Manager, Freshwater  
Wexford, PA

Hardy North America  
James Murphy  
President  
Lancaster

No Brainer Expeditions  
Glenn Burgess  
Owner / Head Guide  
Boiling Springs, PA

Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs  
Ted Onufrak  
President  
Harrisburg, PA

The Fly Fishing Show  
Chuck Furimsky  
Director / Owner  
Rockwood, PA

**South Carolina (1)**

South Carolina Council (Trout Unlimited)  
Meta Armstrong  
Council Chair  
Greenville, SC

**South Dakota (4)**

Custom Accessories  
Royce Merritt  
Owner  
Harrisburg, SD

Dakota Angler & Outfitter  
Hans Stephenson  
Owner  
Rapid City, SD

South Dakota Wildlife Federation  
Chris Hesla  
Executive Director  
Pierre, SD

The School of Fly Fishing  
Katie Cole  
Education Director  
Lead, SD

**Tennessee (2)**

Smoky Mountain Troutfitters  
Sean M. McKay  
Owner / Head Guide  
Knoxville, TN

Strike King Lure Company  
Allan W. Ranson  
Chief Operating Officer  
Collierville, TN

**Texas (6)**

Departure Publishing  
Tosh Brown  
Owner  
Austin, TX

Lower Mountain Fork River Foundation  
Patrick Waters & Roger Turner  
Directors  
Dallas, TX

Mountain Hideaway  
Kyle E. Jones  
President  
Lubbock, TX

Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company  
David Leake & Brent Boone  
Owners  
Dallas, TX

Temple Fork Outfitters  
Rick Pope  
President  
Dallas, TX

Tosh Brown Photography  
Tosh Brown  
Owner  
Austin, TX

**Utah (3)**

Trout Bum 2  
David Glater  
Owner / General Manager  
Park City, UT

Western Rivers Flyfisher  
Ken Davis  
Manager  
Salt Lake City, UT

William Joseph  
Paul Swint  
Sales Manager  
West Jordan, UT

**Vermont (1)**

The Orvis Company  
Perk Perkins  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sunderland, VT

**Virginia (3)**

Dusty Wissmath Fly Fishing  
Dusty Wissmath  
Owner  
Bluemont, VA

Hanover Fly Fishers, Ltd. LLC  
Harry W. Robertson, III  
Owner  
Hanover, VA

Murray's Fly Shop  
Jeffrey Murray  
Owner / Guide  
Edinburg, VA

**Washington (28)**

Coastal Conservation Association Pacific NW  
Gary Loomis  
WA Chairman  
Vancouver, WA

Deneki Outdoors  
Andrew Bennett  
President  
Seattle, WA

Emerald Water Anglers  
Dave McCoy  
Owner / Head Guide  
Seattle, WA

ExOfficio  
Steve Bendzak  
General Manager  
Tukwila, WA

Far Bank Enterprises  
Travis Campbell  
President / CEO  
Bainbridge Island, WA

Filson  
Amy Terai  
Marketing Manager  
Seattle, WA

Fish First  
Gary Loomis  
President  
Woodland, WA

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club  
Jason Mulligan  
President  
Spokane, WA

MidStream  
Seth Norman  
Owner  
Bellingham, WA

North Fork Composites  
Gary Loomis  
Owner  
Woodland, WA

Northwest Women Fly Fishers  
Cynthia Hickey  
Conservation Committee  
Seattle, WA

Pacific Fly Fishers  
Michael Bennett  
Owner  
Mill Creek

Peninsula Outfitters  
Captain Bill Drewry  
Owner  
Poulsbo, WA

Puget Sound Fly Fishers  
Carl Zarelli  
Conservation Officer  
Tacoma, WA

Rajeff Sports, LLC  
Tim Rajeff  
President  
Vancouver, WA

Red's Fly Shop, LLC  
Joe Rotter  
Partner  
Ellensburg, WA

Redington Tackle and Apparel  
Jen Gish  
Marketing Manager  
Bainbridge Island

Rogue Outdoor Marketing  
Tyler Palmerton  
President  
Vancouver, WA

Sage Manufacturing  
Eric Gewiss  
Marketing Manager  
Bainbridge Island, WA

Seattle Chapter (Izaak Walton League of America)  
Bruce McGlenn  
Vice President  
Seattle, WA

Sky Valley Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Max Jones  
President  
Monroe, WA

Spokane Fly Fishers

Mike Berube  
President  
Spokane, WA

SunDog, LLC  
Dominick Villella  
Owner  
Issaquah, WA

Targus Fly & Feather, Inc.  
Wayne Richey  
President / CEO  
Woodland, WA

Washington Council (Federation of Fly Fishers)  
Carl Johnson  
President  
Monroe, WA

Washington Council (Trout Unlimited)  
Tom Van Gelder  
President  
Auburn, WA

Wild Steelhead Coalition  
Rich Simms  
President  
Kirkland, WA

XRodz Fishing Redefined  
Jim Mercier  
Chief Executive Officer  
Seattle, WA

**West Virginia (2)**

Jerry's Flies  
Gerald Davis  
Owner  
Bridgeport, WV

Mountaineer Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Randy Kesling  
President  
Bridgeport, WV

EPA Letter from Sport Fishing and Hunting Interests on Bristol Bay Alaska (Nov. 2010)

**Wisconsin (4)**

Aldo Leupold Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Michael Barniskis  
President  
Beaver Dam, WI

Coulee Region Chapter (Trout Unlimited)  
Eric Rauch  
President  
La Crosse, WI

Jacquish Hollow Angler  
Dave Barron  
Owner / Guide  
Richland Center, WI

Stream Dreams Outfitter  
John Nebel  
Owner / Guide  
Menasha, WI

**Wyoming (7)**

Cliff Outdoors  
Matt Cassel  
Owner  
Casper, WY

Fish the Fly Guide Service & Travel  
Jason Balogh  
Owner  
Jackson, WY

High Country Flies  
Howard Cole  
Manager  
Jackson, WY

North Fork Anglers  
Tim Wade  
Owner  
Cody, WY

Platte River Fly Shop  
Ryan Anderson  
Owner  
Casper, WY

Wyoming Council (Trout Unlimited)  
Dave Sweet  
Chairman  
Cody, WY

Wyoming Fly Fishing Guide Service  
Ryan Anderson  
Owner  
Casper, WY

**International (17 from 5 Countries)**

**Canada (4)**

Fly Fusion Magazine  
Chris Bird  
Group Publisher  
Calgary, Alberta

Islander Reels  
Barry Foster  
Manager  
Saanichton, British Columbia

Torrent  
Bruno Isabelle  
Operations Director  
Sherbrooke, Quebec

Wilson's Fly Fishing  
Jim Wilson  
Owner  
Toronto, Ontario

**Finland (1)**

Vision Group, Ltd.  
Tuomas Ryttonen  
Product Manager  
Hyvinkaa

**France (1)**

Planet Fly Fishing  
Olivier Lauzanne  
Owner  
Boulogne, Billancourt

**Singapore (1)**

Spinmade Oy  
Samuli Orko  
Co-Founder / Vice President – Asia Pacific  
Singapore

**United Kingdom (10)**

Aardvark McLeod International Fly Fishing Specialists  
Peter McLeod  
Managing Director  
Tidworth, Hampshire

Albury Game Angling  
Peter Cockwill  
Owner  
Albury, Surrey

Dragon Tackle International, Ltd.  
Terry Clease  
Managing Director  
Llangan, Vale of Glamorgan

European Fishing Tackle Trade Association  
Jean-Claude Bel  
Chief Executive Officer  
London, England

Fish and Fly, Ltd.  
Paul Sharman  
Editor  
Worth, West Sussex

Fulling Mill Limited  
John Wolstenholme  
Director of Sales & Marketing  
Salfords, Surrey



Hardy & Grey's Limited  
Richard Sanderson  
Managing Director  
Alnwick, Northumberland

Richard Wheatley Limited  
Mark Woof  
Managing Director  
Malvern, Worcestershire

Roxton's Worldwide  
Charlie White  
Director of Fishing  
Hungerford, Berkshire

Turrall Flies  
Simon Jefferies  
Sales Director  
Devon, England

Ms. Lisa Jackson  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

October 25, 2010

Dear Administrator Jackson,

As people of faith, we are called to be good stewards of God's Creation and to seek justice for all of God's people. We write to you with great concern for the proposed mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska and believe that any mine in this area would threaten the health and well-being of this natural system as well as the native and fishing communities around the Bay. We believe the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a significant role to play in the proposed mine's development and urge you to initiate a 404(c) process to ensure protection for God's Creation and people in Bristol Bay.

Bristol Bay provides one of the last truly healthy and productive salmon fisheries in North America and the world. Each year, millions of salmon return to the Bristol Bay watershed to spawn. This annual run has continued to support the native Alaskan's subsistence lifestyle, hundreds of commercial fishermen and their families who fish Bristol Bay every summer, and thousands of sport fishermen for whom Bristol Bay is a "destination." In addition to the economic and community benefits that the Bay provides, the health of the salmon population ensures the health of the entire Bay including grizzly bears, bald eagles, and the whole of God's creation in the Bay.

Of particular importance to the faith community are the environmental justice implications of the proposed mine and the impact that the mine would have on native Alaskan communities in the Bristol Bay watershed. Six native tribes live in the Bristol Bay watershed, and the salmon that return to the Bay every year provide for more than 50 percent of an average native Alaskan's diet. Bristol Bay's pristine water and the salmon that thrive here are a vital part of the native Alaskan culture that has survived for centuries. A mine would threaten the health and well-being of the native communities and creation that live here.

If developed, the proposed mine would threaten all of this. Reports have shown that the Pebble Mine would be the largest open-pit hard-rock mine in North America covering more than 28 square miles with the largest dam in the world as part of the mine complex. According to the mining companies, the proposed mine would produce up to nine billion tons of waste, containing toxic substances such as aluminum, arsenic, lead, mercury, selenium and naturally radioactive material. Any release of this combination of metals and toxic substances would threaten the well-being of creation and communities in and around the Bay.

The EPA will play a large role in the permitting process of this mine and we urge you to take proactive steps that will fully explore the potential impacts that a mine of this scale would have on Bristol Bay. Specifically, we urge you to initiate a 404(c) process as outlined under the Clean Water Act which would outline the impacts of the mine's waste on the area's water quality, a vital component of God's creation, and prevent the use of the Bristol Bay watershed as a dumping ground for toxic mining waste. We look forward to working with you in protecting Bristol Bay in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

The Episcopal Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

National Council of Churches USA

Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness

United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries

United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society

Contact:

Tyler Edgar

Associate Director

Eco-Justice Program

National Council of Churches

[tedgar@ncccecojustice.org](mailto:tedgar@ncccecojustice.org)

239-560-1560

The Honorable Lisa Jackson  
Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Ariel Rios South Building  
Washington, DC 20460

October 29, 2010

Re: Request for Initiation of Clean Water Act Section 404(c) in area near Bristol Bay, Alaska

Dear Administrator Jackson,

As chefs, restaurateurs, and members of the food community, we seek your help in protecting one of our nation's most sustainable and healthy foods, Bristol Bay sockeye salmon, from the proposed Pebble Mine and large-scale mineral development. Unlike the majority of other wild salmon stocks along the West Coast, Bristol Bay sockeye is abundant and well-managed but it faces unprecedented threats from large-scale mineral development. This is where you can help.

With up to 60 million wild salmon returning each summer to Bristol Bay, Alaska, it is our nation's largest and most valuable wild salmon fishery, making it a critical food and revenue source for thousands of Americans. The Bristol Bay fishery employs over 4,000 people each season and generates hundreds of millions of dollars for America's economy annually. Bristol Bay's fishery not only sustains the livelihoods of fishermen and seafood processors, it also greatly impacts those of us who rely on sustainable wild salmon fisheries for our businesses. Wild Pacific salmon is an internationally recognized and prized food that consumers increasingly seek out, which makes it an essential and irreplaceable part of our menus.

Although Bristol Bay is a salmon stronghold, the region's healthy ecosystem could be severely damaged if plans for the development of the proposed Pebble Mine go forward. Located on state land in the headwaters of two of Bristol Bay's major salmon-producing rivers, Pebble is a massive gold and copper sulfide deposit. If developed, it would be one of the world's largest open-pit metal mines. Scientists have identified a slew of risks associated with this project, including acid mine drainage, industrial discharges, and toxic waste that would require perpetual treatment. In addition to Pebble, other mining projects may go forward on federal land nearby due to a Bush Administration plan that removed mining restrictions on 1.1 million acres of Bureau of Land Management land.

As chefs, restaurateurs, and food lovers, we feel these risks to Bristol Bay are unacceptable. If we allow these mining projects to advance, we endanger a delicious and nutrient-rich food that millions of Americans value and demand. Bristol Bay presents an opportunity to permanently protect this wild food source that sustains an irreplaceable ecosystem and an invaluable marketplace. Therefore, we urge you to use your authority under the Clean Water Act to oppose the Pebble Mine and permanently protect the Bristol Bay fishery.

Sincerely yours,

Aaron Willis  
**Executive Chef**  
Summit House  
Crystal Mountain, Washington

Adam Danforth  
**Butcher**  
Marlow and Daughters  
Brooklyn, New York

Adam N. Hoffman  
**Chef de Cuisine**  
Rover's Restaurant  
Seattle, Washington

Alan Hummel  
**Director, Seafood and Meats**  
New Seasons Market  
Portland, Oregon

Amy Grondin  
**Sustainable Seafood Consultant**  
Grondin Consulting  
Port Townsend, Washington

Angela Toner  
**Personal Chef**  
Personal Chef Angela  
Seattle, Washington

Anna Li  
**Director of Marketing**  
The Essential Baking Company  
Seattle, Washington

Anthony Polizzi  
**Chef de Cuisine**  
Steelhead Diner  
Seattle, Washington

Ashley Koff  
**Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist**  
Ashley Koff Approved  
Los Angeles, California

Barbara Aderson  
**Goddess Personal Chef Service**  
North Easton, Massachusetts

Barton Seaver  
**Chef and Cookbook Author**  
Blue Ridge Restaurant / For Cod and Country  
Georgetown, D.C.

Becky Selengut  
**Chef and Author**  
Cornucopia Cuisine  
Seattle, Washington

Bill Morris  
**Executive Chef**  
The Rainier Club  
Seattle, Washington

Bryan Dolieslager, CCM, CEC  
**General Manager**  
Evergreen Country Club  
Haymarket, Virginia

Bryan Szeliga  
**Chef de Cuisine**  
Lucy's Table  
Portland, Oregon

Bun Lai  
**Chef and Owner**  
Miya's Sushi  
New Haven, Connecticut

Buzz Hufford  
**Resident District Manager**  
Bon Appetit Management Company  
Seattle, Washington

Casson Trenor  
**Co-Owner**  
Tataki Sushi and Sake Bar  
San Francisco, California

Cathy Whims  
**Chef and Owner**  
Nostrana  
Portland, Oregon

Charles Finkel  
**Owner**  
The Pike Pub and Brewery  
Seattle, Washington

Chris Logsdon  
**Owner**  
Chris Logsdon Catering  
Portland, Oregon

Christine Keff  
**Chef and Owner**  
Flying Fish  
Seattle, Washington

Christopher Wang  
**Personal Chef/Bristol Bay fisherman**  
Sea Education Association

Connie Adams  
**Editor**  
SeattleDINING.com  
Seattle, Washington

Cory Carman  
**Owner**  
Carman Ranch  
Wallowa, Oregon

Dana Cress  
**Executive Chef**  
Salty's on the Columbia  
Portland, Oregon

David E. Ross  
**Food Writer**  
Los Angeles, California

David Ivey-Soto MBA, CEC, CCA  
**Certified Executive Chef**  
American Culinary Federation  
Alexandria, Virginia

David Knaus  
**Owner**  
Fresh Earth Gardens  
Portland, Oregon

David Sauer  
**Sales Representative**  
OceanWide Seafood  
Dayton, Ohio

Dustin Ronspies  
**Chef**  
Art of the Table  
Seattle, Washington

Eddie Pierson  
**Chef and Owner**  
Simply Seasoned Catering  
Snohomish, Washington

Edward M Glennon Jr  
**Chef**  
Back Eddy Bistro  
Venice, Florida

Elaine Johnson  
**Associate Food Editor**  
Sunset Magazine  
San Francisco, California

Elaine Osuna  
**Pastry Chef**  
A Cote Restaurant  
Oakland, California

Eli Penberthy  
**Associate Editor**  
PCC Sound Consumer/PCC Markets  
Seattle, Washington

Elizabeth Woessner  
**President**  
The Underground Gourmet  
Denver, Colorado

Ellen Jackson  
**Chef, Food Stylist**  
foodprintstyle  
Portland, Oregon

Farah Renno  
Alaska Mountain Air  
Eagle River, Alaska

Forest Bell  
**Executive Chef**  
Congressional Country Club  
Bethesda, Maryland

Francesca Benedetti  
**CSA Coordinator**  
Sauvie Island Organics  
Portland, Oregon

Gavan Murphy  
**Owner**  
The Healthy Irishman Events  
Venice, California

George Lewis  
**President**  
Vanilla Box, Inc  
Boston, Massachusetts

George Rudolph  
**Executive Chef**  
Sunset Cork Room  
Gulf Shores, Alabama

Gerard Thompson  
**Executive Chef**  
Rough Creek Lodge & Resort  
Glen Rose, Texas

Gerard Viverito  
**Director and Owner**  
Savour Fine Catering and Event Design  
San Diego, California



Gina Truhe  
**Food Blogger**  
Trattoria Vivolo/Food is My Porn  
Harrison, New York

Helene Kennan  
**Resident District Manager**  
Bon Appetit Management Company  
Los Angeles, California

Henry Lovejoy  
**President and Founder**  
EcoFish, Inc.  
Dover, New Hampshire

Hunter Chamness  
**Chef**  
Bones  
Denver, Colorado

Ian A. Ale CEC-CCE-AAC  
**Director**  
Virginia Culinary School  
Fairfax, Virginia

J. Huston  
**Founder and Primary**  
Farm to Table Food Services  
Oakland, California

Jack Henniger  
**Executive Chef**  
BridgePort BrewPub  
Portland, Oregon

Jacquelyn Brassell  
**Chef**  
Chef Jax Concepts  
Atlanta, Georgia

Jade Castillo  
**Owner**  
Soiree Catering  
Bainbridge Island, Washington

Jake Greenberg  
**Owner**  
Classic Foods, Ltd  
Portland, Oregon

James Morris  
**Executive Chef**  
Evergreen Country Club  
Haymarket, Virginia

Jane Lee  
**President**  
Jadon Foods  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Jarad Gallagher  
**Executive Chef**  
Lake Chalet Seafood Bar and Grill  
Oakland, California

Jeff McClelland  
**Executive Chef**  
The Harbour Public House  
Bainbridge Island, Washington

Jeffrey Mora  
**Owner**  
Metropolitan Culinary Services, Inc  
Los Angeles, California

Jennifer Girvin  
**Director of Development**  
Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly  
Boston, Massachusetts

Jeri Jackson  
**Master Chef**  
The Art of Food  
New York, New York  
Jerry huisinga  
**Chef**  
Bar Mingo  
Portland, Oregon

Joel Chenet  
**Chef and Owner**  
Mill Bay Coffee & Pastries  
Kodiak, Alaska

John Arsenault  
**Owner**  
Sol  
Wellfleet, Massachusetts

John Ash  
**Chef and Creator**  
John Ash & Company  
Santa Rosa, California

John Tesar  
**Culinary Director**  
DRG Concepts  
Dallas, Texas

Joshua Riffle  
**Personal Chef**  
Antone Ranch  
Bend, Oregon

Julia Landau  
**Program Associate**  
Slow Food USA  
New York, New York

Julie Minadeo  
**Territory Manager**  
Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Justin Durand  
**Sous Chef**  
Athletic Club of Columbus  
Columbus, Ohio

Justin E Tedford  
**Line Cook**  
One Twenty Six  
Iowa City, Iowa

Karen Ripley  
**Health Counselor and Whole Food Chef**  
New York, New York

Kathryn Bliss  
**Center Chef**  
Rendezvous Grill and Tap Room  
Welches, Oregon

Ken Martin  
**Meat Manager**  
New Seasons Market  
Portland, Oregon

Kevin Cottle  
**Executive Chef**  
The Country Club of Farmington  
Farmington, Connecticut

Kevin Davis  
**Executive Chef and Owner**  
Blueacre Seafood  
Seattle, Washington

Kevin Davis  
**Chef and Owner**  
Steelhead Diner  
Seattle, Washington

Kin Lui  
**Chef and Owner**  
Tataki Sushi and Sake Bar  
San Francisco, California

Kori Green  
**Owner**  
Korianne Designs  
Chicago, Illinois

Kristin Kelly  
Kristy's Cuisine

Kristofor Sandholm  
**Chef and Owner**  
Starfish Brasserie  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Kurt Kwiatkowski  
**Dining Service Complex Manager**  
Michigan State University  
Lansing, Michigan

Laura Lee  
**Chef Instructor**  
Napa Valley Cooking School  
St. Helena, California

Lisa Lanxon  
**Executive Chef**  
Cana's Feast Winery  
Carlton, Oregon

Lisa Schroeder  
**Chef and Owner**  
Mother's Bistro & Bar  
Portland, Oregon

Lisa Schroeder  
**Chef and Owner**  
Mama Mia Trattoria  
Portland, Oregon

Lola Jane Probert  
**Owner**  
Jealous Snails, Llc.  
San Antonio, Texas

Marcel Fernandez  
**Server**  
Bottega Grill  
Miami, Florida

Marcia J Hara

**Chef**

Illehe Hills Country Club

Salem, Oregon

Mark Bittman

**Chef, Cookbook Author, TV host**

New York, New York

Mark Bodinet

**Executive Chef**

Copperleaf Restaurant at Cedarbrook Lodge

Seattle, Washington

Mark Dommen

**Chef and Partner**

One Market Restaurant, San Francisco

San Francisco, California

Mark Mendez

**Executive Chef**

Carnivale

Chicago, Illinois

Mark Roberthon

**Chef**

Cafe Des Amis

Breaux Bridge, Louisiana

Marty Cummins

**Corporate Chef**

The Lemmons Company

Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

Mary Loos

**Health Services Administrator**

Chefs Collaborative member

Portland, Oregon

Max Chapman

**Student Cook**

Flaming Eggplant Café

Olympia, Washington

Megan Goble

Champagnes Cafe

Las Vegas, Nevada

Meggen Chadsey

**Writing Contributor**

Seattle Chefs Collaborative

Seattle, Washington

Melissa LeClair

**Therapeutic Chef**

Vibrant Chef Services

Vancouver, B.C.

Michael Lynch

**Chef Instructor**

Food and Finance High School

New York, New York

Michael Rosen, CEC

**Executive Chef**

The Speedway Club at Charlotte Motor

Speedway

Concord, North Carolina

Michael Sternberg

**Founder and Proprieter**

Harry's Tap Room

Arlington, Virginia

Mike Anderson

Parental Guidance, Inc.

Rye, New Hampshire

Moses Boone

**ECOprenuer**

Colored Planet Connexion

New York, New York

Nan Ellis

Mendham High School

Mendham, New Jersey

Nikki Moore

**Chef and Owner**

FOOD LOVE

Charlotte, North Carolina

Patricia Cyman

**Beverage Director and Executive Chef**

Ranch House Restaurant

Fraser, Colorado

Patricia Gadsby

**Journalist, Farmers Market Manager**

Falmouth Farmers Market

Falmouth, Massachusetts

Patricia McCormick

**Culinary Student**

Patrick Klinger

**Retired Restaurateur**

Burgerville

Vancouver, Washington

Paul Hutchinson

Chancellor's Village

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Paul Johnson  
**Founder and Cookbook Author**  
Monterey Fish Market  
San Francisco, California

Quentin Topping  
**Executive Chef**  
Google  
Mountain View, California

Ramona White  
**Chef Instructor**  
Oregon Culinary Institute  
Portland, Oregon

Ray Brantley  
**Dining Captain**  
Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek  
Dallas, Texas

Ray Chen  
Marine Club  
San Francisco, California

Raymond Carpenter  
**Executive Chef**  
Laurel Creek Country Club  
Mount Laurel, New Jersey

Raymond Ho  
**Chef and Partner**  
Tataki Sushi and Sake Bar  
San Francisco, California

Rick Moonen  
**Creator/Executive Chef**  
RM Seafood  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Rob Salvino  
Terra Preta Sales  
Seattle, Washington

Robert Kramer  
**Line Cook/Prep Cook**  
Higgins Restaurant  
Portland, Oregon

Robert Marcarelli  
**Restaurant Consultant**  
PPX Hospitality - Restaurant Consultant  
New York, New York

Robin Leventhal  
**Chef and Owner**  
Crave, LLC  
Seattle, Washington

Roland G. Henin, CMC  
**Corporate Chef**  
Delaware North Companies  
Buffalo, New York

Ronnie MacQuarrie  
**Orencia Station Chef**  
New Seasons Market  
Portland, Oregon

Rose Ann Finkel  
**Owner**  
Pike Brewing Company  
Seattle, Washington

Roy Breiman  
**Culinary Director**  
Copperleaf Restaurant  
Seattle, Washington

Roy Finamore  
**Cookbook Editor and Author**  
TASTYcentral.com  
New York, New York

Sarah Schafer  
**Executive Chef**  
Irving Street Kitchen  
Portland, Oregon

Scott Justis  
**Owner**  
Nelbud Service Group  
Egg Harbor City, New Jersey

Scott Thomas  
**General Manager**  
Whitetail Club  
Boise, Idaho

Seth Caswell  
**Chef and Owner**  
Emmer&Rye Restaurant  
Seattle, Washington

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**Cookbook Author**  
Oyster Cookery  
Seattle, Washington

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Seafood Watch Program, Monterey Bay Aq.  
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Vincent J. Alberici, CEC  
**Chef Consultant**  
Philedelphia, Pennsylvania

Vito DiLullo  
**Executive Chef and Owner**  
Ciao Vito  
Portland, Oregon

Wayne Johnson  
**Executive Chef**  
Andaluca Restaurant  
Seattle, Washington

William Alexander  
**Executive Chef**  
One. Six One  
Chicago, Illinois

William A. Martin  
Tastings Wine Bar & Bistro  
Foxboro, Massachusetts



TIFFANY & CO.  
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NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022  
212-755-8000

MICHAEL J. KOWALSKI  
CHAIRMAN AND  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

September 14, 2010

The President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of Tiffany & Co., I am writing to urge you to protect the irreplaceable resources and heritage of Bristol Bay, Alaska from the potentially devastating environmental degradation associated with the proposed Pebble Mine.

Since 1837, Tiffany & Co. has created jewelry inspired by the beauty of the natural world. As we discussed in New York, we are proud that for more than 16 decades our artisans have designed and manufactured our jewelry in America. We are also strong believers in American mining. In fact, the majority of the gold and silver used in Tiffany & Co. jewelry workshops is obtained from a single U.S. mine that meets the highest standards of social and environmental responsibility.

Despite the fundamental importance of precious metals to our business, we believe that there are special places where mining should not take place. We agree with many Alaskans that the pristine Bristol Bay watershed is one such place. Unfortunately, an international mining partnership proposes to extract gold and copper from the heart of America's greatest salmon fishery, near the headwaters that sustain Bristol Bay.

The scheme would require construction of one of the largest earthen dams on the planet in an area that experiences frequent earthquakes. Should the project proceed, it will only be a matter of time until the dam fails and dumps mine waste and deadly pollution into the rivers and streams that flow to Bristol Bay.

The consequences of such a failure will be catastrophic. Bristol Bay is a stronghold for wild salmon without parallel in the world. The vibrant fishery supports subsistence, commercial and sport fishing worth nearly half a billion dollars and thousands of jobs annually. Putting this special place and these jobs in jeopardy for the sake of gold mining is simply not worth the risk. Tiffany & Co., along with many American jewelry retailers, has signed the *No Pebble Pledge* and will not source gold from the proposed mine because our customers and potential customers expect and deserve nothing less. And it is for

this reason that we will place the attached advertisement in the December issue of National Geographic Magazine which will feature the glories of Bristol Bay.

Your Administration, through the leadership of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Bureau of Land Management Director Bob Abbey, has already taken important steps to protect this invaluable region by banning new oil and gas development in Bristol Bay and by protecting federal land from hard rock mining. These courageous decisions would be undermined should the Pebble Mine proposal receive the permits necessary to proceed.

Tiffany & Co. respectfully urges you to use all appropriate tools at your disposal to ensure that the Pebble Mine is never built and that Bristol Bay remains the inspirational, valuable, and productive ecosystem that it is today and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Kowalek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

cc: The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary, Department of the Interior  
The Honorable Gary Locke, Secretary, Department of Commerce  
The Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality  
Bob Abbey, Director, Bureau of Land Management  
Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service  
Rowan Guild, Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works

TIFFANY & CO. CELEBRATES  
BRISTOL BAY, ALASKA  
ONE OF AMERICA'S  
PRICELESS TREASURES

The Bristol Bay watershed is the spectacular home of America's greatest wild salmon fishery and one of the most beautiful and pristine places on earth.

This is why Tiffany & Co. is so concerned about the proposal to locate an enormous gold and copper mine in the very heart of this watershed.

Tiffany & Co. and other jewelers have publicly announced that we will not use gold from the proposed Pebble Mine. Tiffany's experience in over 173 years of sourcing gemstones and precious metals tells us that there are certain places where mining cannot be done without damaging the landscape, wildlife and communities.

Bristol Bay is one such place.

As we weigh the inevitable risks against the promised reward of the Pebble Mine, we know there will be other gold and copper mines to develop. But we will never find a more majestic and productive place than Bristol Bay.

TIFFANY & CO.

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy is committed to the long-term vitality, diversity and abundance of fish and wildlife in the Nushagak and Kvichak watersheds of the Bristol Bay region.

WHEREAS, the Nushagak and Kvichak watersheds comprise a global center of sockeye salmon diversity and Bristol Bay as a whole produces an estimated 51% of the world's sockeye salmon and 10% of the world's wild salmon population.

WHEREAS, for the last four years, the Conservancy has undertaken rigorous scientific investigation at a cost of roughly \$2.5 million, including commission of several peer-reviewed independent reports, to assess the potential risks to these resources posed by large-scale mining in these watersheds

WHEREAS, based on our understanding of the risks and the state of current, proven mining technology, large-scale mining in these critical watersheds at this time presents an inappropriate risk to the salmon systems of the region

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservancy recommends that in the Kvichak and Nushagak watersheds mining and other activities will not be allowed that:

- destroy or impair wild salmon habitat, such that the sustained abundance in the watersheds is placed at significant risk
- require water withdrawals that may exceed ecological flow needs for fish and wildlife
- need active management in perpetuity to avoid environmental contamination<sup>1</sup>
- result in acid mine drainage that cannot be eliminated by proven methods and technology established at comparable sites and scale<sup>2</sup>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Conservancy believes that a very high bar is necessary in this region and the above criteria should form the foundation of that bar.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Conservancy will work together with local communities, state and federal agencies, businesses and other stakeholders to further refine and characterize this bar such that we maintain the vitality, abundance and diversity of these salmon systems.

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<sup>1</sup> By "active management" we do not mean long-term monitoring or correcting unforeseen problems, both of which are required by law. The intent is to avoid planned management such as active mechanical and water quality management systems that must be maintained in perpetuity.

<sup>2</sup> It is important to note that by "comparable sites and scale" we do not mean "identical." The intent is to find a project with similar geological, hydrologic, and meteorological conditions at a scale relevant for comparison purposes.

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